

New Guinea

Dec. 10, 1944

Dear Halbo

As yet I haven't heard from you for quite a while. I hope to get some mail today.

Have been making a few bracelets lately. I'm not too good at engraving but maybe I will improve. Will send a couple to Verda for souvenirs. I sent one to Bill the other day.

I went to Confession last nite & Communion this morning. The first time I have had a chance for quite a while.

It didn't rain very much last nite. That is quite unusual for New Guinea.



-2-

We got paid yesterday. I got about \$130. I will send \$100 home. You can take part of it & buy Bob & Verda a nice wedding present. Put the rest of it in the bank for me.

There really isn't much to write about when you don't get any mail from home. Things are always about the same here.

Well I got a money order made out & will enclose it in this letter.

How much of the corn have you got shucked by now? What is the average ^{yield} per acre? I hope it is pretty good.

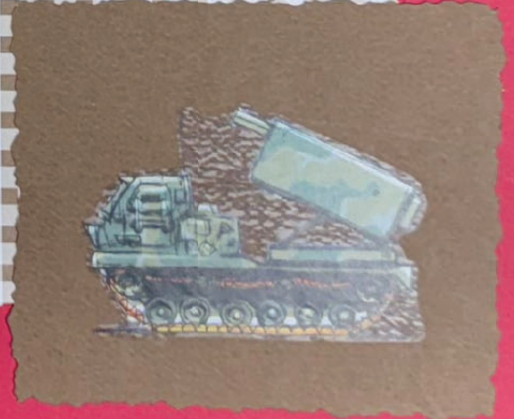
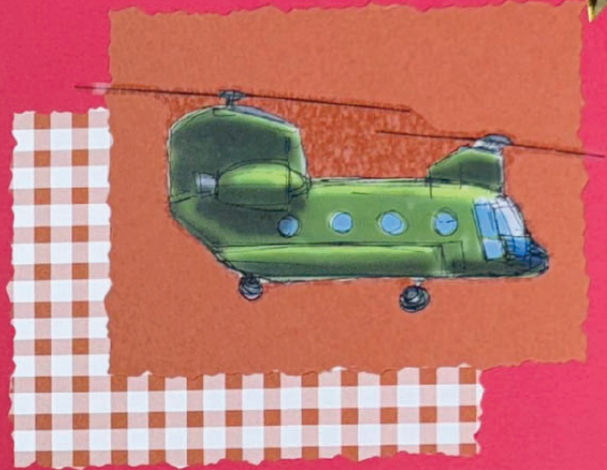
It looks like it will start raining again soon. It rains every day.

-2-

I suppose that Bob & Verda
to be home by now & having a
swell time. Would like to be
home for Christmas but maybe it
will be the next year.

Can't think of anything else
to write so I will close for
now.

Love
Jim



Dec. 15, 1944
New Guinea

Dear Folks.

I got two letters from you today. One was written Nov. 9, the other Nov. 26. Just goes to show how the mail get here.

Was sure glad to hear that there wasn't anything wrong awrong with Daddy. I had been wondering because I hadn't heard from home for quite some time.

No I haven't gotten the candy & cookies yet. They will catch up with me sometime. I don't know where or when though.

Glad to hear that they Kelly had such a

swell day for their bazaar. Ales glad that they had such a swell crowd.

How long does it take for my mail to get back there?

I think I have requested about enough for Christmas so far. I do want you to send me 9 radios picture though. If you can get some kind of folder like picture frame to put it in it would be a lot better.

You can take part of the money I sent home & buy yourself & the rest of the family their Xmas presents. There isn't anything to buy here. Maybe



Post the complete address in plain letters in the panel below, and your return address in the space provided on the right. Use typewriter, dark ink, or dark pencil. Print or small writing is not suitable for photographing.

TO: **MRS. M. HURTER**
COFF
KANSAS

FROM: **PA. JAMES J. HURTER**
1127 1515 D
1414 PACIFIC CO. ROAD
APR. 7TH, 2nd FL.
SAN FRANCISCO, CALIF.

(SENDER'S COMPLETE ADDRESS ABOVE)

Dear Father,

I sent a few lines to tell you I am O.K. I shot a shot at 100 money order home yesterday. If you don't get it in a reasonable length of time let me know I think it will get there O.K.

There is everyone back home I feel fine & happy. I suppose that Bob & Vanda are home now & having a small time. You can take some of that money & buy all the things something for Christmas also for Bob & Vanda's wedding presents I will try to send something like a summer for a birthday present when I can get something nice.

It rained almost all day yesterday so we didn't have to work. We got another shot in the arm yesterday but didn't bother like the usually do. Maybe we are just getting used to it.

I don't know how long we will be here in the field as we do now you probably won't hear from me for a while. I don't worry though. We can send mail and while we are on a boat.

It is getting kinda hot again today. See how pretty cool today. Well must close for now.

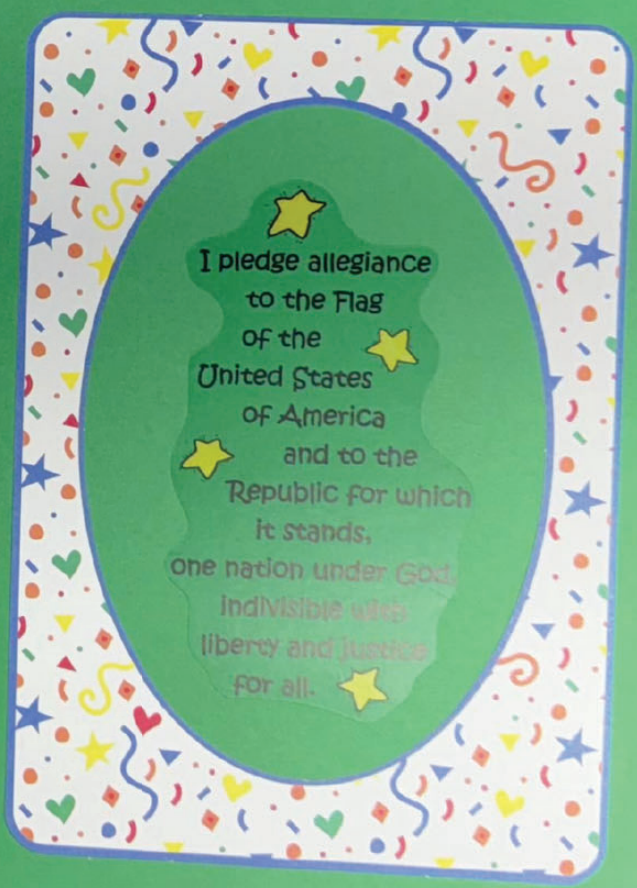
Love,
James

HAVE YOU FILLED IN COMPLETE ADDRESS AT TOP?

WAR & NAVY
DEPARTMENTS
V--MAIL SERVICE
OFFICIAL BUSINESS

DEC 15
2:30 AM
1944
No. 3

PENALTY FOR PRIVATE USE TO AVOID
PAYMENT OF POSTAGE, \$300



later on we can get some
place where we can buy
something. I sure hope so
anyway.

We can buy a few candy
bars every once in the while
now.

I don't know how long
we will be here. Probably
not to long.

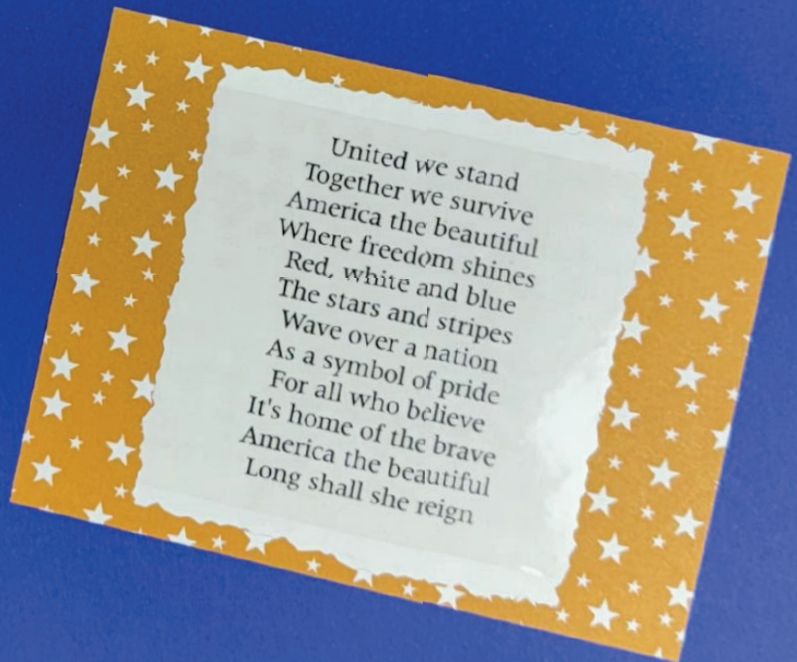
Saw a fellow the other
day that talked just like
Phil Hueter. He was also
slow & easy going just like
Phil is.

Well I can't think of any
thing else to write so will
close for now.

Merry Xmas to all. Love

Jim





Dear Folks

This is going to get there A little early for Xmas but they tell us that we are going to to move and I want to send them before they get lost.

Well you may think I am crazy or something but I have just signed up in the Regular Army effective Oct. 31. I was Discharged from the Army of The United States Oct. 30 & am now in the United States Army. If everything goes as it should I will be home sometime next spring on A 90 day furlough. I may be sorry later on but I don't think so. This isn't so bad now that the War is over I signed up for one year.

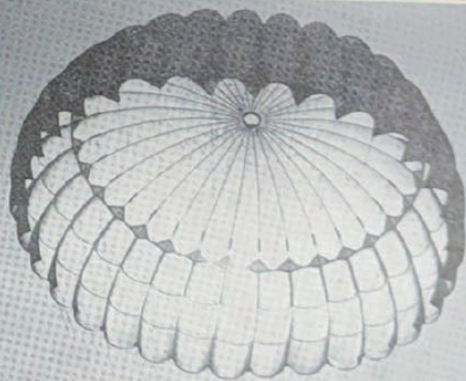
They told us that we are going to Japan again before long. Must close for now. Will write soon

Jim

SEASON'S GREETINGS
FROM
A PARATROOPER



Merry Christmas
and a
Happy New Year



New Guinea
Dec. 16, 1944

Dear Folks

How is everyone back home? I just fine I hope. I am still O.K.

Boy the time sure seems to slip by. Now it is Sat. again. It seems like it should be about Wed.

I went to Confession, again tonight & expect to go to Communion in the morning unless we have to work.

We had to work for a while last nite. After we got done I went to the shows. Saw two of them last nite. They were both good. I went to. & saw "Goni" first.

WOOF!



Arf!



-2-

After that was over I went & saw "The Sun & The Cactus". The Andrew sisters played in it. Well I will sign off now & go to bed. Will write some more tomorrow.

Now it is Sunday morning. Looks like it is going to be a swell day. It is a half hour yet before Church. We don't have to work so I will get to go O.K.

How much Corn how you got shucked so far. Did you get a picker to pick the Corn on the farm? I hope you did. It will save a lot of time & work. Daddy should buy one if he could find one. I saw him a lot of

WOOF!



-3-

work.

Did you get the Corn
elevator to work.

Have been doing a lot of
reading lately. Say will you
send me the American magazine
every month or so if it is possible.
I don't know whether you can
do that or not. I hope so.

If they give out passes
this afternoon I think I will
go swimming. Haven't been
swimming for quite a while
now.

Well I can't think of
anything else to write so will
close for now.

Love
Linn

★ American as apple pie

★ LAND THAT I LOVE ★



★ AMERICA the BEAUTIFUL

★ GOD BLESS THE USA ★



New Guinea
Dec. 20, 1964

Dear Folks

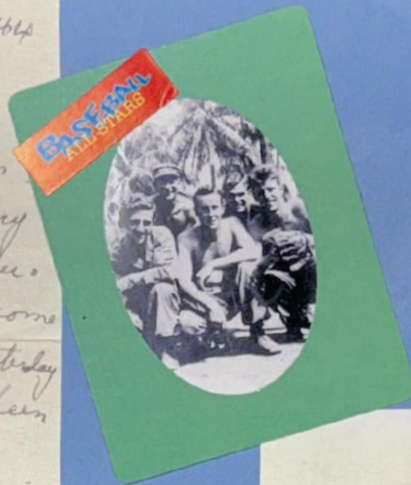
I got a letter from you yesterday & was very glad to hear from you. Some of the boys got some Christmas packages yesterday & also some that had been sent to F.H. Brenning.

Will probably get mine before very long. Hope so anyway.

We got to play softball yesterday afternoon instead of working I like that a lot better.

They had mail call this morning but I still didn't get any mail.

Glad to hear the



HOMERUN



is turning out so good this year. Wish we had some of that cold weather over here. It sure gets hot at times.

It hasn't rained here for over a week now. Don't know what is going to happen. Generally rains every day.

I guess maybe if it stays cold back there you may have a white Xmas.

Well there isn't anything to write about so I will close for now.

Have gotten several of Love your letters so far.

Jim

P.S. My boots aren't supposed to be in my suitcase. Sgt. Morris's wife was to send them from San Francisco.

BASEBALL



Prelude to Christmas Poem

'Twas the night before Christmas, he lived all alone
In a one bedroom house made of plaster and stone.
I had come down the chimney with presents to give.
And to see just who in this house did live.

I looked all about, A strange sight I did see.
No tinsel, no presents, not even a tree.
No stocking by mantle, just boots filled with sand.
On the wall hung pictures of a far distant land.

With Medals and Badges, Awards of all kinds
A sober thought came through my mind.
For this house was different, it was dark and dreary.
I found the home of a Soldier, once I could see clearly.

The soldier lay sleeping, silent, alone.
Curled up on the floor in this one bedroom home.
The face was so gentle, the room in such disorder.
Not how I pictured a United States Soldier.

Was this the hero of whom I'd just read?
Curled up on a poncho, the floor for a bed?
I realized the families that I saw this night.
Owed their lives to these soldiers who were willing to fight.

Soon round the world, the children would play.
And grownups would celebrate a bright Christmas Day.
They all enjoyed freedom each month of the year,
Because of the soldiers, like the one lying here.

I couldn't help wonder how many lay alone,
On a cold Christmas Eve in a land far from home.
The very thought brought a tear to my eye,
I dropped to my knees and started to cry.

The soldier awakened and I heard a rough voice,
"Santa, don't cry, this life is my choice.
I fight for freedom, I don't ask for more.
My life is My God, My Country, My Corps."

The soldier rolled over and drifted to sleep
I couldn't control it, I continued to weep.
I kept watch for hours, so silent and still.
And we both shivered from the cold nights chill.

I didn't want to leave on that cold, dark night,
This Guardian of Honor so willing to fight.
Then the Soldier rolled over, with a voice soft and pure,
Whispered, "Carry on Santa, It's Christmas Day, All is secure."

One look at my watch and I knew he was right.
"Merry Christmas my friend and to all a Good Night."





New Guinea
Dec. 23, 1944

Dear Folks

How is everyone back home? I just fine I hope. I am O. N. & think I am going to get fat again. I am a N. S. until we leave here. But all I want to eat now. They ask for six of us so I got on.

We go on at twelve one day & work until six. Get up at five the next morning & work until twelve. We are off then until the next day at noon.

It rained last nite. The first time for quite a while.

I suppose Bob will



be gone back to camp by the time you get this letter. Is Verda going back with him. I suppose she will want to.

I haven't gotten any mail for quite a while now. Hope to get some soon. I should be getting my packages any time now.

I did get a picture from Fredonia Wilson the other day. It had been sent to Ft. Benning also.

Well this isn't much to write so I will close for now.

Love
Jim

New Guinea
Dec. 24, 1944

Dear Folks

Well here it is Christmas
but I still no candy or cookies.
I can't figure it out. Most of
the boys have gotten theirs
already. Maybe I will get
them tomorrow.

I don't know whether
I told you about being a
R.P. or not. Anyway I work
six hours a day. I win & I
~~went~~ on at twelve thirty this
noon & worked until six.

We will go on again tomorrow
morning at six & work until
twelve & then we are off until
twelve the next day. I
kinda like it. Get plenty to



to eat anyway. I will probably
get fat again.

I went to communion
this morning. We are having a
midnight Mass tonight so will
go again. Probably won't get a
chance to go in the morning.

Will probably have to
keep writing & reading until
midnight to stay awake.

I got two letters today
for a change anyway. They
were both written Dec. 7. It
took them just seventeen days
to get here.

We are going to have a
turkey dinner tomorrow. I am really
going to fill up on it.

Some of the boys put up
Xmas trees. They look pretty



nice.

It has started to rain again now. When it rains it generally rains awfully hard. It cools it off pretty good though.

Say if you can get any films back then please send me some. I don't have my camera yet but if you sent it I should be getting it before very long.

Was Bob & Vanda home for Xmas? I sure hope so. This will be my first Christmas away from home & I hope the last one. Probably won't be though.

If I write a letter to Bob tonight I will just send it to you & you can forward it on to him. I don't know what his address will be.

Sugar + Spice

- 4 -
Did you get the Money Order I sent home. If you haven't gotten it by the time you get this letter let me know. I will see what I can find out about it.

How is everyone back there? Just fine I hope. Has it snowed any lately? I sure would like to see some snow.

Well there isn't much else to write about so I will close for now.

Love
Jim

CHRIST MASS

1944



5TH REPLACEMENT DEPOT
NEW GUINEA



PROGRAMME

MIDNIGHT MASS FOR CHRISTMAS OF 1944 IN NEW GUINEA

ANT - Reverend F. B. Vanholme, S.S.B. Chaplain, Maj.
Organist - Corp. Edward F. O'Neill

CHRISTMAS CAROLS

"O, All Ye Faithful" No. 84. Oakeley
Congregation
The Herald Angels Sing" Mendelssohn
The Choir
"Hark! The Herald Angels Sing" Mohr
Soloist and Choir
"We Have Heard On High" Chadwick
Soloist and Choir
"First Noel" Traditional
The Choir
"O Holy Night" Adam
Soloist and Choir

HOLY MASS

Kyrie St. Basil
Gloria Gregorian Chant
Crede Gregorian Chant
Sanctus St. Basil
Benedictus St. Basil
Agnus Dei Missa Salve Regina
The Choir

"Adeste Fideles" Oakeley
Soloist and Choir

May the Infant Saviour of Bethlehem's Crib bestow
upon you and your loved ones His choicest blessings dur-
ing this Christmas Season, and may His peace be in your
hearts throughout the coming year.

F.B. VanHoltz
S.S.E.

F.B. VANHOLME, S.S.E.



269th Repl. Co., 12th Repl. Bn., New Guinea 1944

**It's a GRAND
OLD FLAG!**



PREPARED BY THE BEST COOKS OF THE SWPA

CADRE COOKS

Sgt Wilson	Cpl Olena
Sgt Mortenson	Cpl Pertolino
Sgt Munn	Cpl Hokenson

CASUAL COOKS

Cpl Pace	Pvt Giddons
Pfc Hale	Pvt Kazmersak
Pvt Helmerich	Pvt Koch
Pvt Glenn	Pvt Whitehouse
Pvt Frater	Pvt Maddox
Pvt Phinney	Pvt Garner
Pvt Johnson	Pvt Wilkerson
Pvt Knight	Pvt Christopher

Pvt Mullis

BAKERS

Pvt Timmons	Pvt Kirkwood
Pvt Heehan	Pvt Haxarman
S Sgt Duane L. Roe	<i>Peter Sorola</i>
Mass Sergeant	1st Lt Peter Sorola
	Mass Officer



M E N U

ROAST TOM TURKEY

SAGE DRESSING GIBLET GRAVY

CANDIED YAMS CRANBERRY SAUCE

BUTTERED CORN CREAMED PEAS

OLIVES SWEET PICKLES

BREAD BUTTER

PUMPKIN PIE

FRUIT CAKE

CANDY

ICED TEA



269TH REPLACEMENT COMPANY

Capt. Merlin J. Chadsey, Commanding Officer

1st/Cgt	Wendelin J. Biegler	1st Sergeant
S/Cgt	Olan D. Cornell	Supply Sergeant
S/Sgt	Duane L. Roe	Mess Sergeant
Sgt.	Albert J. Heemstra	Company Clerk
Tec/4	Merrill H. Mortenson	Cook
Tec/4	Edward L. Wilson	Cook
Tec/4	Otto W. Mann	Cook
Tec/4	Pierre Santolino	Cook
Tec/5	Avery T. Henson	Cook
Tec/5	Max D. Olson	Cook
Tec/5	Kenneth W. Prince	Mail Clerk
Tec/5	Robert C. Saus	Armorer
Tec/5	Rex F. Wagner	Clerk, Bn. Hq.
Pvt.	James D. Kelley	Truck Driver
Pfc.	Robert D. Morrow	Bugler

1st PLATOON

Lt. Peter Soroka, Plat. Commander

S/Cgt Fred Rotinger, Plat. Sgt.
 Sgt. Robert C. Gregg 1st Sqd.
 Sgt. Henry S. Dyson 2nd Sqd.
 Pfc. Austin G. Hunt 3rd Sqd.
 Cpl. George L. Barnes 4th Sqd.

2nd PLATOON

Lt. Herbert Schmitz, Plat. Commander

S/Cgt Otto Buehner, Plat. Sgt.
 Sgt. Donald K. Hume 1st Sqd.
 Sgt. William G. Wilman 2nd Sqd.
 Sgt. Albert S. Pio 3rd Sqd.
 Sgt. Gordon L. Collis 4th Sqd.

3rd PLATOON

Lt. John B. Tabaka, Plat. Commander
 S/Cgt Robert C. Lampke, Plat. Sgt.
 Sgt. Ben Lee 1st Sqd.
 Sgt. Robert N. Scherer 2nd Sqd.
 Sgt. F.A. D'Alessio 3rd Sqd.
 Cpl. Julian L. Stephens 4th Sqd.

Land
That
I
Love

New Guinea

Dec. 26, 1944

Dear Halbs

How did everyone get over the big Holiday back home? Just fine I hope. I got over it very well.

We really had a swell dinner yesterday. I am sending you a menu that tell all about it. I am also sending you a program of the midnite Mass.

Three other boys & myself went to the beach yesterday afternoon & went swimming. Anyway that is something you can't do on Christmas back home.

How is the corn shucking

coming along? Did you get a picker to pick the corn on the Grand place?

It is pretty hot here again today. Hope it rains & cools it off some anyway.

Well there isn't anything to write so will close for now.

Love
Jim



New Guinea
Dec. 29, 1944

Dear Folks

How is everyone back home?
Just fine I hope. I am O.K.

I wrote a letter to Bob &
Verde last nite & sent it to Goff.
You can forward it on if they
are both gone. I don't know Bob's
his address.

Haven't heard from you for
about a week now. Did get some
mail the 27th that was the last.

Got paid again the other days
for Oct. & Nov. I told them I had
already been paid but they paid
me anyway. There were several
of us that got paid twice.

Am enclosing an \$80 money
order with this letter. You can



buy the boys this birthday presents
with part of it. Bills will
probably be over when you get
this. Smiths I haven't gotten
him anything & Dan's will come
along pretty quick.

It is still pretty hot here.
Rained a little last nite.

There isn't much to write
about so will close for now.

Love
Jim



Jan. 4, 1945

Dear Folks

Just a line or two to let you know I am still A.K. & what my new address is.

I guess Bill is a year older today. Happy Birthday. Hope you are having a better time than I am. We are really enjoying ourselves though now.

Saw some good shows lately. Tonite we saw "My Heart Belongs to Daddy," last nite we saw "The Miracle of Morgan Creek." Forgot the name of the other one but Bud Abbott & Lou Costello played in it.



How is everyone getting along back home? Just fine I hope.

I got a Xmas Card & letter from Uncle Anthony & Aunt Susan last Friday. Was also very glad to hear from them. That was the first mail I had gotten for quite a while.

Well there isn't much to write about so will close for now.

Love
from

Headquarters Callistonic Div.
A.P.O. 468, 70 P.M. San Francisco, Calif.

Recd. 1/10/45
Jan. 10, 1945

Dear Babs

How is everyone back home?
Just fine I hope. I am still O.K.
Haven't gotten any mail for quite
a while so don't know what
is going on back there.

Yesterday we went swimming.
Had a swell time. We also got
three Cans of Cold beer. The first
time we have had any cold beer.

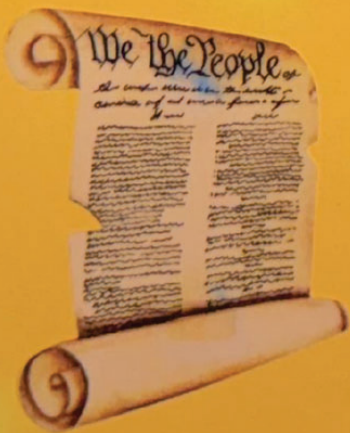
I am really getting a good
sun tan lately. We haven't been
doing much lately except getting
caught up on my sleep & reading.

Does Bob think he will
be going overseas soon? Hope he

never has to. You do get
to see a lot of places that you
never thought you would.

Well there isn't much to
write about so will close for now

Love
Jim



Post James J. Hunter #37735982

Wg Co. 11 Airborne Div.

A.P.O. 468, 2 P.M.

San Francisco, Calif.



Mr. Emil Hunter
Topeka, Kansas

286

Somewhere in the
Philippines
Feb. 1, 1945

Dear Folks

I suppose you are beginning
to wonder what happened to
me. Anyway I am still O.K.
We have been on the water & couldn't
write.

We are now in the 503rd Airborne.
I wrote once & my address was the
11 Airborne. There was a little
mistake somewhere & we ended
up in the 503. I think it is
a lot better outfit.

Alfonso, Iremia & I are still
together. There are several other
boys I know that are here also.



I guess we can tell about our
trip from the States. They told
us we could write about it after 90
days.

We got on the ship USS Conte
October 2nd & got to New Guinea
Nov. 15. We had several air alerts
on the way but never saw any
planes. There were several ~~sub~~
alerts also. They were about fifty
miles away. We crossed the
Equator Nov. 6. & The International date
line Nov. 8. That was about all that
happened here on the way over.

I like it a lot better here
in the Philippines than in
New Guinea. It looks like a
little more like civilization
here. There are a few small towns
here.



America
be proud!



In God we trust.

It gets almost as hot here but
there is generally a cool breeze blowing.
It gets nice & cool at night & is really
nice sleeping here.

Well I can't think of much
else to write so I will close for
now.

Love
Jim

P.S. Where is Bob at now? Send
me his address. Haven't gotten any
mail yet.

I forgot to tell you about the
food here. It is really good. A lot
better than any we have had yet.
Ice cold drinks & everything.

Let Freedom Ring!



Phillipsines
Feb. 6, 1945

Dear Bill

How are you by now? Just fine I hope. Did your leg stay stiff? I hope it didn't.

What has been ~~done~~ going on back there lately. I haven't heard from anyone for over a month now.

Say Bill do you remember that little silver colored Evans light. Anyway if you can find it take it to a jeweler & get it fixed & then send it to me. Would sure like



to have a good lighter. I like it pretty good here in the Phillipsines. The people here are really friendly. They will wash your clothes for a small amount of money.

This is really a swell outfit here. The boys are all just like brothers. They would give you anything they have if you ask them for it.

We were supposed to join the 511 but I am glad that we didn't now. I think that this is a better outfit by far.

When is Bob home? Is Verda still with him I hope



he never has to leave the states. If he does I hope he goes the other way.

I would really like to have some mail coming in before very long. Don't know what is going on back there. Write & tell me all about ~~the~~ what is going on back there.

Well I must close for now. Be good & write when you have time.

Your Brother
Jim.

Enclosed is some old gas. money. It is worth anything but maybe you would like to have some any.





Philippines
Feb. 14, 1945

Hello Don

Well I suppose you feel like a little man now. It won't be very long until you have another birthday.

We can't buy any presents so I will send you one that I have made. It is a pretty good one I think. Don I want you to keep it until I get home. I may want it then.

How have you been getting along in school? You haven't been expelled lately have you?

What are some of the latest

shows back there? I bet you have seen some good ones.

We saw two pretty good ones lately. Last nite we saw "My Gal Loves Music" & the nite before "A Guy Named Joe". They were both good shows.

Do they still have those dances in Seneca? They probably do.

Well Don I can't think of much to write so will close for now. Be good.

Your Brother
Jim

Dear Folks

The mail has finally come through. I received 29 letters last nite.

Don't hardly know how sorry I was to hear of Verda's death. It was quite a shock to me. I suppose it was really an awful shock to everyone back there.

Where is Bob now? I hope he doesn't take it too hard. If they had any pictures taken I would like to have one. I got Verda & Bob's picture.

Have you gotten the money orders I sent from New Guinea. No my boots weren't insured. Mrs. M. may not have sent them yet. I will ask Sgt. Mauras about

them.

There isn't any use to try to send any candy over here. When it gets here it isn't any good anyway. We have been getting quite a bit of candy & cookies now.

Well must close for now.

Love,
Jim

Well Dan I wrote this before. No--- but didn't get to mail it, so will add a few lines. I am O.K.

& back where we came to first in the Philippines. Have gotten several letters & am feeling fine. Well I must close & will write soon. Will you send some news clippings of our outfit. Like to know what they said about

The Philippines
March 19, 1945

Dear Folks.

I just a few lines to tell you that I am still O.K. Have been getting a little ~~very~~ mail now & then. I still haven't gotten any of my packages. They will be catching up with me pretty quick.

How is everyone back there? O.K. I hope. Got two letters from Aunt Dorothy & one from Anthony. Was very glad to hear from them.

We got paid yesterday for Dec. Jan. Feb. I sent two hundred dollars to the Bank. I turned it in to the company & they send it home for us. Don't know how long it will



B-17 Flying Fortress

take it to get there but it will sooner or later.

They took the pictures of the boys from different states that took part in our last mission & are to have them put in our home town papers. Don't know whether they will be very plain or not. Would like for you to send me one of them.

Got promoted to a 2nd Lt. the other day. He. Was kind surprised at myself.

Well there isn't much to write about so I will close for now.

Love
Jim

The Philippines
March 23, 1945

Dear Folks

Received a letter from you today & was really glad to hear from you. That was the first letter I got from you for almost two weeks.

Was glad to hear that everything is still O.K. Back home. Suppose it is getting a little warmer back there by now. It still gets pretty warm here during the day. It gets nice & cool though at night. Good sleeping weather.

We haven't done much since our mission. I started taking a few exercises in the morning but no running so far. Hope they don't start it.

If you have ask me if I had been getting the paper? No I haven't but it takes them there about three



months to get here so would just as soon you wouldn't send it. I get most of the news anyway. Haven't gotten the American Magazines yet but hope to soon. They have some good stories in them.

The Red Cross puts out ice cold Coaks every afternoon. They are pretty good.

Have been seeing some good shows lately. Have seen some of them before but don't mind seeing some of them again.

Well there isn't much to write so will close for now.

Love
Jim

Land
of
Liberty





I

The Philippines
April 2, 1945

Dear Folks

Received your letter today & was very glad to hear from you. I got two letters from Bob yesterday. He said that he wasn't getting much flying time in lately because of the weather.

I guess he was glad to ~~that~~ he made the grade so that he could be a fighter pilot. He told me once that he would rather fly a fighter than any thing else so I guess he got his wish.

I had heard about Ray's & Doris' twins a few days ago. One of the nurses wrote & told me about them. She said that they were very cute. But Ray is awfully proud of them.

Let Freedom Ring!



II

I had just written to him a few days before I heard about these twins.

Does Mrs. Maurer keep you posted about where we are or not. She is very nice & she has two cute little children. They were really nice to us the day ~~they~~ we were there. Sgt. Maurer is in the same outfit. He is in Co. E. We see each other all the time. We go to church together once in the while.

I have been getting quite a ~~lot~~ little mail lately. A lot of it is old mail just catching up with me. I like to read it anyway. I still haven't gotten any packages yet. I guess they will catch up with me sometime.

We had a nice rain here this morning. It was the first we



have had for quite some time now.
 I don't know whether I ever told
 you about the money we use here
 or not. Well anyway we use Pesos &
 Centavos. A Centavo is worth a $\frac{1}{2}$ ¢
 in our money. A Peso is worth .50¢.

Haven't you been getting my
 mails. I try to write as often as I can.
~~from~~ Usually write twice a week. There
 were a few days that I couldn't write.
 You know the reason. Hope you
 have heard from me by now.

Well I can't think of anything
 else to write so will close for
 now.

Love
 Jim

Yais Picture Was Taken
 From A Book . . .
 "Return To Corregidor"

KANSAS

1st Row; L. to R. Pfc. Smith,
 Pvt. Huerter, Pfc. Taylor, Pvt.
 Roberts, Pfc. Brown, Pfc. Max-
 well, Pvt. Ditges, Pfc. Funk,
 Pfc. Moorman.
 2nd Row; L. to R. Capt.
 Murphy, Lt. Karst, Sgt. Peery,
 Pfc. Schwindamann, Cpl.
 Herold, Sgt. Alstrom, Pfc.
 Wenkinhofer, Sgt. Jones, Sgt.
 Shutt.



The Philippines
April 4, 1945

Dear Folks

How is every^{one}? I feel there by
now I just fine & hope. I am
still O.K.

Received a letter today from
Aunt Dorothy tonight. Was glad
to hear from her. She said that
Francis is still home. Guess he
is making quite a stay. I suppose
he was helping his folks move.

We have been eating pretty
good lately. ~~For dinner~~. We had
fresh meat again today. Roast
beef for dinner & hamburgers for
supper.

Don't know what the name
of the show is tonight. Will have
to go & find out.

I was on guard again last



nite & today so am a little sleepy
tonite.

Have you heard from me
yet? Hope you have by now. Can't
figure out why you haven't heard
from me by now.

Well it is about time to
go to the show so will close for
now. Will write more the next
time.

Love,
Jim



CLASS OF SERVICE

This is a full-rate Telegram or Cablegram unless its deferred character is indicated by a suitable symbol above or preceding the address.

WESTERN UNION

A. N. WILLIAMS
PRESIDENT

1204

SYMBOLS

DL=Day Letter
NT=Overnight Telegram
LC=Deferred Cable
NLT=Cable Night Letter
Ship Radiogram

The filing time shown in the date line on telegrams and day letters is STANDARD TIME at point of origin. Time of receipt is STANDARD TIME at point of destination

K H CK 43 Govt

Washington D.C. 106 AM May 15 1945

Emil Huerter

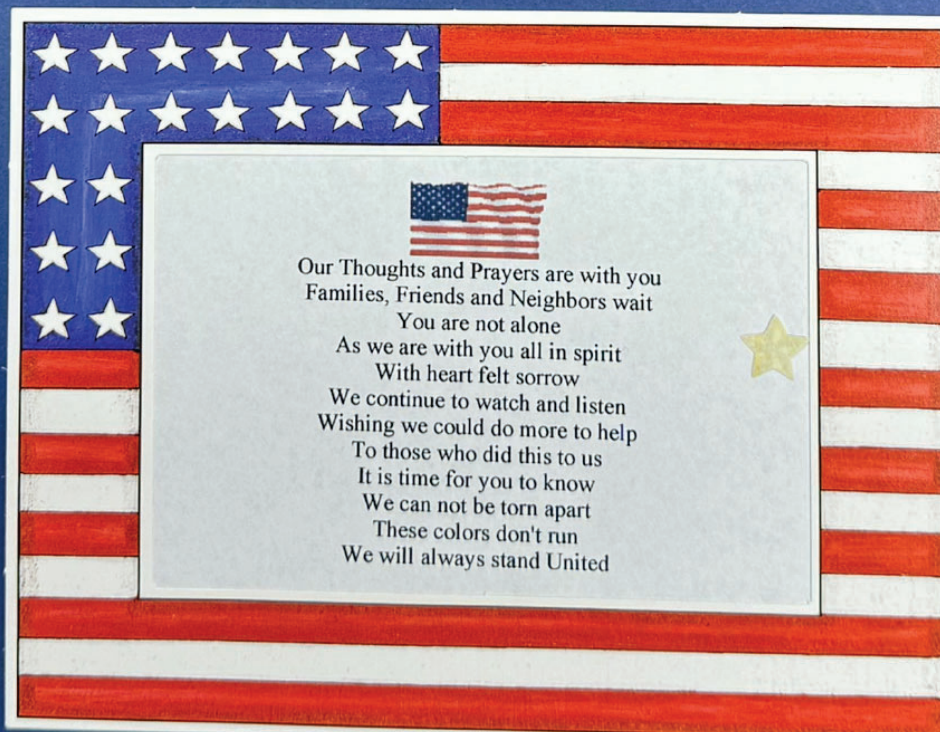
Goff, Kans.

The Secretary of War desires me to express his deep regret that your son Pfc Huerter James J was slightly wounded on Negros Island 20 April 1945 continue to address mail to him as formerly or until new address is received from him.

J A Ulio, The Adjutant General of the Army

847 AM

THE COMPANY WILL APPRECIATE SUGGESTIONS FROM ITS PATRONS CONCERNING ITS SERVICE





AMERICAN RED CROSS

Dear Folks

How is everyone back home now?
Just fine I hope I am getting
along just fine. I was slightly
wounded & am now in the hospital.
I got a little taken off of the end
of my right index finger & also a
piece of shrapnel in my left leg.
It isn't bad so don't worry
about it. Will soon be out of here
& as good as even.

This is a pretty nice place here.
They feed us good & we get a lot
of rest. They have some of the Phillips
inos come around to entertain us.
Yesterday they had some that I
thought were really good. They
played the piano & violins.

FORM 528



One Nation,
under God...
with Liberty
and Justice for all.



AMERICAN RED CROSS

They had a big dance for us the
first nit we got here. We all had quite
a bit of fun. I wish I could tell you
just where we are but I can't. This is the
best place I have been since I have been
here anyway.

Well there isn't much to write
so will close for now.

I am
fine

P.O. James G. Huerta 37795982
Co. D 503 Para Div.
APO 321, 3 P.M.
San Francisco, Calif.

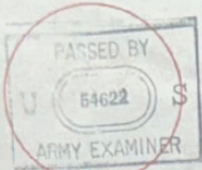


Mrs. Emil Huerta

Off.

Kansas

Print the complete address in plain letters in the panel below, and your return address in the space provided on the right. Use typewriter, dark ink, or dark pencil. Faint or small writing is not suitable for photographing.



(CENSOR'S STAMP)

TO: MR. Emil. HUERTER
GOFF
Kansas

SEE INSTRUCTION NO. 2

FROM

Pfc James J. HUERTER
Co. D 503 Para Inf APO
70 P.M. San Francisco, Ca

(Sender's complete address above)

Dear Folks

How is every one getting along? Just fine I hope. I am getting along pretty good. My finger is all healed up now. The scold my leg up but haven't taken the stitches out yet. It was pretty sore for a while but feels pretty good now. Don't know how much longer I will be here. Not to long I hope.

They have a show here every other nite. The Phillipsines have a dance about every Sat. nite. I didn't get to go last Sat. as I couldn't walk. Will probably be able to go this week.

Suppose Smith & Dan are happy now that school is almost out. They will probably have a lot of work to do though when they get out. Have you planted much corn yet. I guess it is getting about that time anyway.

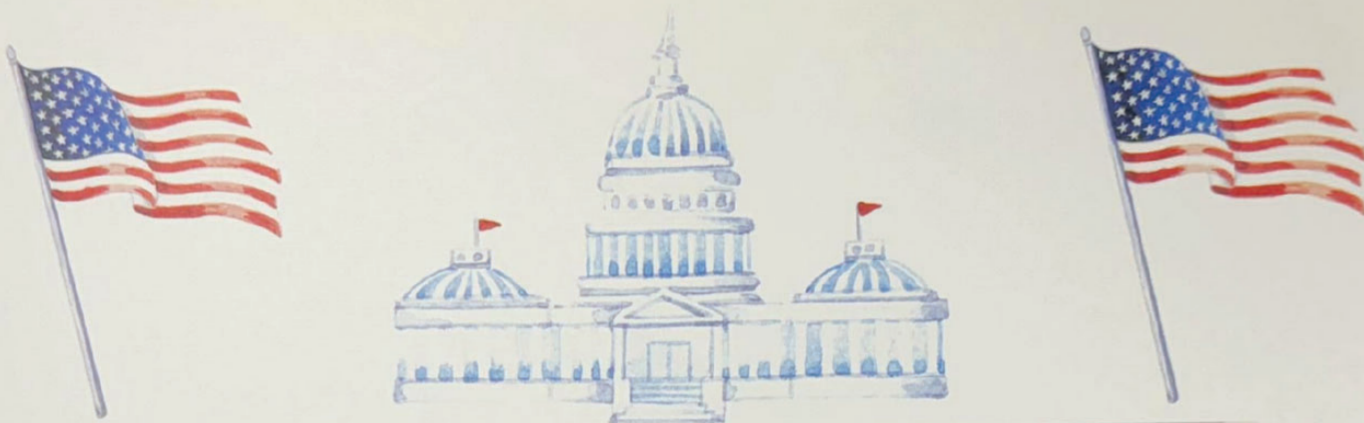
I haven't gotten any mail yet since I have been in the hospital but hope to get some soon. I haven't written very much lately as you have probably noticed by now. Would love to B of but haven't memorized his address yet & I don't have address with me. Well must close for now. Love Jim.

HAVE YOU FILLED IN COMPLETE ADDRESS AT TOP?

REPLY BY
V...-MAIL

HAVE YOU FILLED IN COMPLETE ADDRESS AT TOP?





Short History of the Purple Heart

After his victory over the British at Yorktown, Virginia, in October 1781, General George Washington established his headquarters at Newburgh NY, to keep a watchful eye on the English forces. He had a keen appreciation for the importance of the common soldier in any campaign and often recognized outstanding valor or merit with a commission or advancement in rank for the soldier concerned. In the summer of 1782, the Continental Congress ordered him to stop. There were no funds to pay the soldiers — much less the officers. Searching for some means of recognizing his men, he wrote a General Order on August 7, 1782 that read in part as follows:

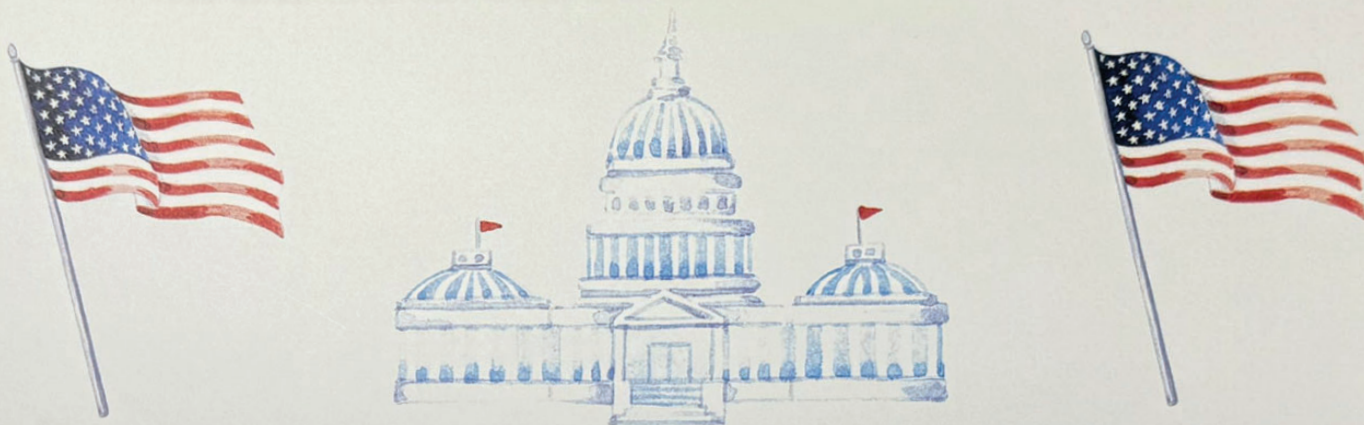
"The General, ever desirous to cherish virtuous ambition in his soldiers as well as foster and encourage every species of military merit, directs that whenever any singularly meritorious action is performed, the author of it shall be permitted to wear on his facings, over his left breast, the figure of a heart in purple cloth or silk edged with narrow lace or binding. Not only instances of unusual gallantry but also of extraordinary fidelity and essential service in any way shall meet with due reward... The name and regiment of the persons so certified are to be enrolled in a Book of Merit which shall be kept in the orderly room... Men who have merited this distinction to be suffered to pass all guards and sentinels which officers are permitted to do... The order to be retroactive to the earliest stages of the war, and to be a permanent one... The road to glory in a patriot army and a free country is thus open to all."

Sgts. Elijah Churchill, William Brown, and Daniel Bissell Jr. are the only known recipients of this award during the Revolutionary War. On May 3, 1783, Churchill and Brown received the Purple Heart. Bissell received his on June 10, 1783. It was never officially abolished, however the badge was allowed to fall into disuse and was forgotten as no further awards were made after the Revolutionary War.

Prior to the celebration of General Washington's Bi-Centennial in 1932, a search for his papers was initiated. After having been lost or misfiled for almost 150 years, the General Order of 1782 was discovered as was the accounts of the three men who received the award. The Book of Merit has never been found. Beginning in 1927, several efforts by the Army and private citizens attempted to revive the "Badge of Military Merit." Finally on January 7, 1931 General Douglas MacArthur confidentially opened the case with the objective of having the new medal issued on the bicentennial of General Washington's birth. The War Department announced the "new" award on February 22, 1932.

Army Regulations were revised at about this time to state:

"A wound which necessitates treatment by a medical officer and which is received in action with an enemy, may in the judgment of the commander authorized to make the award be construed as resulting from a singularly meritorious act of essential service."



At that time the Navy Department did not authorize the issue of the Purple Heart, but Franklin D. Roosevelt amended that. By Executive Order on December 3, 1942, the award was extended to the Navy, Marine Corps, and the Coast Guard beginning December 6, 1941.

President Harry S. Truman retroactively extended eligibility to the Navy, Marine Corps, and Coast Guard to April 5, 1917, to cover World War I.

President John F. Kennedy extended eligibility on April 25, 1962, to *"any civilian national of the United States who, while serving under competent authority in any capacity with an armed force..., has been, or may hereafter be, wounded."*

Army regulations, amended June 20, 1969, state that any *"member of the Army who was awarded the Purple Heart for meritorious achievement or service, as opposed to wounds received in action, between December 7, 1941 and September 22, 1943, may apply for award of an appropriate decoration in lieu of the Purple Heart."* Thus the award was restricted to those wounded in action.

President Ronald Reagan, on February 23, 1984, amended President Kennedy's order, to include those wounded or killed as a result of *"an international terrorist attack."*

There are no records of the first individual who received the revived and redesigned Purple Heart. This revived form is of metal, instead of perishable cloth, made in the shape of a rich purple heart bordered with gold, with a bust of Washington in the center and the Washington Coat-Of-Arms at the top. The latter is believed to have been the source of the stars and stripes of the American Flag. Intrinsically, the Purple Heart is the world's costliest military decoration - nineteen separate operations are required to make it from the rough heart stamped from bronze to the finished medal, plated with gold and enameled in various colors, suspended from a purple and white ribbon.

ELMER THOMAS, OKLA., CHAIRMAN
BURTON K. WHEELER, MONT.
JOHN H. BANNERMAN, ALA.
THEODORE G. BILBO, MISS.
ALLEN J. ELLENDER, LA.
SCOTT W. LEECH, ILL.
TOM STEWART, TENN.
RICHARD B. RUSSELL, GA.
TOM CONNALLY, TEX.
SHERIDAN DOWNNEY, CALIF.
CLYDE R. HOEY, N. C.

ARTHUR CAPPER, KANS.
HENRIK SHIPSTEAD, MINN.
RAYMOND E. WILLIS, IND.
GEORGE D. Aiken, VT.
HARLAN J. BUSHFIELD, S. DAK.
GEORGE A. WILSON, IOWA
HUGH BUTLER, NEBR.
GUY GORDON, OREG.

M. E. POOL, CLERK
JOYCE JONES, ASST. CLERK

United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON
AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY

May 21, 1945

Dear Mr. Huerter:

Although you were previously officially notified, I have just learned with deep regret that your son, Pfc. James J. Huerter, has been wounded in enemy action while defending his country.

I realize that any expression of mine will be wholly inadequate to assuage your grief and anxiety, yet I want you to know that you and the other members of his family have my thoughts at such a time.

This performance of his duty has come in connection with his desire to help preserve in every way possible the rights of free men and the ideals upon which our Nation is founded.

It is my wish, as I know it is yours, that his recuperation may be both speedy and complete.

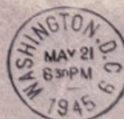
Sincerely your friend,

Arthur Capper

Mr. Emil P. Huerter
Goff, Kansas

United States Senate



COMMITTEE ON
AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY
FREE



Arthur Capper
U.S.S.

Mr. Emil P. Huerter
Goff, Kansas



 The American Spirit lives forever. 



June 21, 1945

Dear Folks

How is everyone getting along back there now? Just fine I hope. I am O. H. now & am back at the Company. Got out of the hospital Monday.

Have gotten some mail lately. ~~not no~~ Got the bilfold O. H. It really is nice. Haven't gotten the diary yet but should get it in a few days.

We have been getting a lot of fresh meat to eat lately. Steak & hamburger & roast beef.

Is Bob still in the States. I haven't heard from him



II

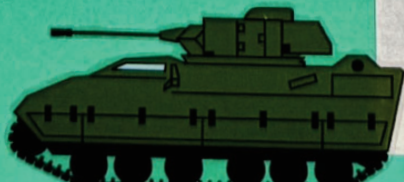
for a long time.

Say can you get Helen Berridge's address for me. She wrote to me but I lost her address. Ed probably knows what it is or Mr. Stark.

When I was in the hospital I got acquainted with a Filipino boy & he use to bring me a fried chicken. It was really good.

Is it still raining a lot back there? It rains almost every day here. The rainy season has just started.

I still haven't gotten any of the packages yet. Maybe we will be here long enough for them to catch up with us. I hope so



America
be proud!

Land
of
Liberty

III

anyway.

I was sure sorry to hear
about George. I guess that he
^{only} had been in about six months.

You ask about where I was
hit. I got hit about six inches
above the left knee. They
put seven stitches in it. It
got infected & they had to
take them then it pulled apart
so it didn't do any good
for them to sew it up in
the first place.

Well I can't think of any
thing else to write so will
close for now.

I am
Jim

The Philippines
July 2, 1945

Dear Talks

I guess it is about time ~~out~~ for
me to write to you. How is every-
one back there. O.K. I hope.
I am just fine. am pretty sleepy
this morning. Was on taton
Guard all night.

It is starting the rainy
season here now. It sure gets
nice & cool at nites.

Do you have all corn planted
I suppose you have by now.
How is the wheat & oats this year.
It should be pretty good beings you
had plenty of rain this year.

Three of us were invited out for
dinner yesterday. We had roasted chicken
& a lot of other stuff. We really had



a swell time

There is suppose to be a big
dance in town tonight. I don't know
whether I will get to go or not. I
hope I do.

We haven't been getting but very
little mail here now. I still haven't
gotten any of my packages as yet.
They brought in several truck loads
of mail yesterday so maybe I will
be getting some soon.

I am going to send some
Japanese Invasion money home
with this letter. It isn't good for
anything but a souvenir.

Well I can't think of much to
write so will close for now. Will
write again soon.

Love
Jim

(over)

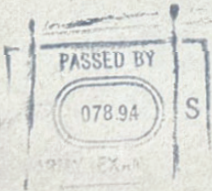




*Am also sending some pictures that
were taken at Corrigidos.*

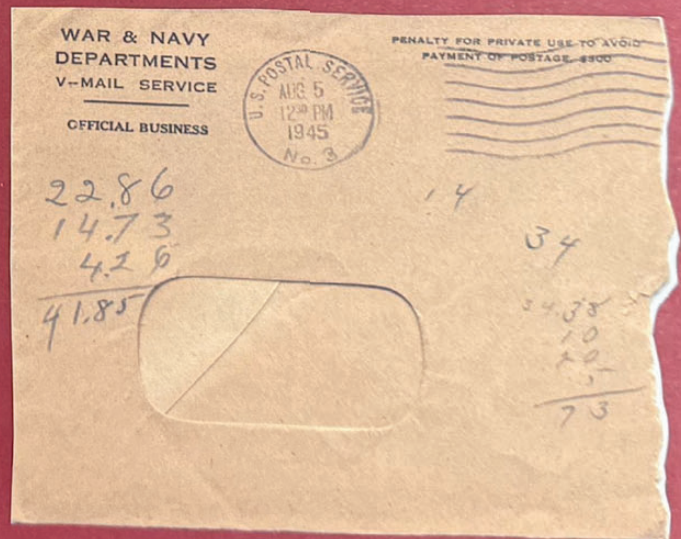
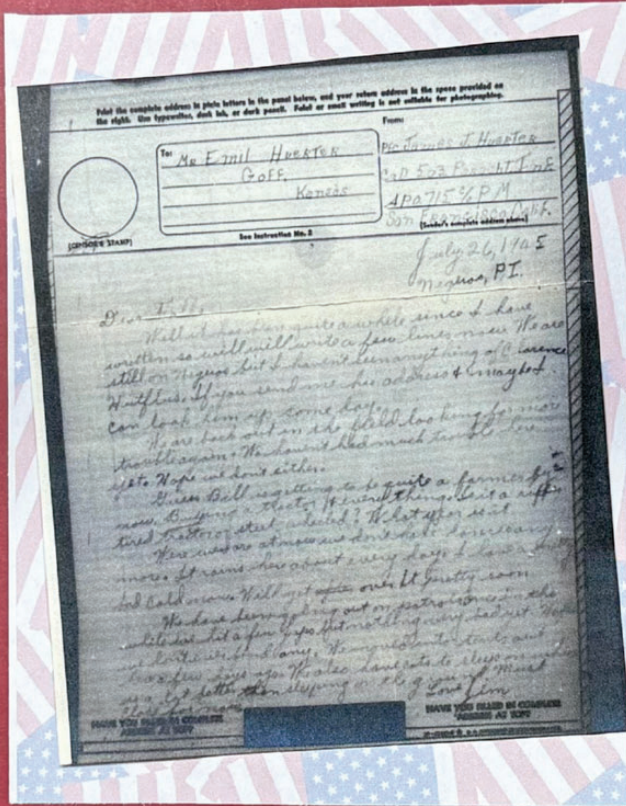


*Lt. James F. Huertes
Co. D 503 Parach. Inf.
A.P.O. 715, 9 P.M.
San Francisco, Calif.*



*Mr. Emil Huertes
Doff,
Kansas*





August 2, 1945
Negroes, P.D.

Dear Folks

Well I have a little extra time so will write a few lines. I have been getting my mail pretty ~~regularly~~ regularly now. Today I got two letters today. They were both rather old but I enjoyed them anyway.

I also got one of the Seneca papers yesterday. It was the one that told about Uncle Ray & Aunt Doris twins. It was a little old also.

It hasn't rained here for almost a week now. It tried to rain here a little today but it just sprinkled a little.

How did the wheat & oats turn out? I hope it turned out as good as Henry Nichols thought it would. Did Bill have any wheat or oats on the Brawl place.

Say another boy saw the diary you sent me & would like to have one if you could get another one. He said that his folks couldn't get any back home. He will pay for it and the mailing charges.

Tomorrow if I have time I will have to write to Aunt Dorothy & Uncle Ray. Haven't

written to them for quite a while now. It is getting pretty dark so will finish this tomorrow morning.

Well here it is morning & it looks like another nice day. It gets awfully hot but you get use to it. It hasn't been so awfully bad out here.

My leg is getting ~~soon~~ sore again my pants leg wears flutters on it & it gets sore. It is pretty tender yet. It will probably be all right again in a few days.

Well I can't think of anything else to write so will close for now.

Love
Jim

12 AUG 1945
Negros, PI

Dear Folks

Well how is everyone back there now? Just fine I hope I am still A.K.

I have a new job now. I am the mail clerk. It is a pretty nice job not much work to do. I set back here in town & send the mail out to the boys & also take care of the mail they send home.

We have a pretty nice place here a big house to live in & plenty to eat. The house has running water, showers, inside toilet, electricity & every thing. There is a ~~new~~ new radio here also but there are two tubes missing & if I can get some tubes I could listen to the radio then. The first Sgt. is going to try to get them for me.

He was also the boy that got me this job. He is really a swell fellow. On Corregidor he was

U.S. ARMY



just a private like me. We made Sgt. on this mission & then got promoted to S Sgt. Was Platoon Sgt. or T Sgt a while & then our First Sgt. went home so he got that job.

It is really raining here today. It cools things off when it rains anyway.

I finally got to see Sgt. Mours again. He left yesterday on his way back to the States. He said that he would write to you when he got home & tell you all about every thing.

They are suppose to have a dance here tonite but if it keeps on raining I don't think I will go.

Well there isn't much to write about so I will close for now.

Love
Jim

Aug. 27, 1945
Negros Occ. P.I.



Dear Folks

Well it has been about a week since I wrote to you so will drop you a few lines now.

Now is every one back there now just fine I hope. I am getting along just fine except my leg. It feels open again. It isn't so bad this time though.

This is quite a place here. We will have been getting a lot of fried chicken lately. We have to buy them from the Phillipinos for four pesos apiece already fried. That is two dollars in American money.

You said something about me coming home... Well I will be over here at least eight more months & probably a year. I think that I will be here at least a year yet. Most of the boys think that we will be home in eight months. I hope they are right.



The American
Spirit lives forever.



Was very sorry to hear about G. Lwin that was really to bad luck. Accidents will happen though.

We got to see two shows lately. One was "Between Two Winkmen". I don't know what the name of the other one was but it was pretty good. Bob Burns plays in it. Maybe we will get to see some good shows now.

There really isn't very much to write about here.

Clarence Huthus isn't on this island any more. He is over on Panay now. He was on this island for a while but he left before I got the letter telling me about it.

Well I can't think of anything to write so will close for now.

Love
Jim

PROUD to be an AMERICAN

Dear Folks

It has been a few days since I have written to you so will drop you a few lines now.

How is everyone back there now just fine I hope. I am still as good as ever. I guess everyone is getting ready to go to school about this time.

Did Smitty & Tony get them some good jobs or were they a little late for harvest. I think they were probably a little late for harvest in Western Kansas.

I haven't heard from anyone back there for a long time. I use to hear from Albert Wilson quite often. Maybe he has been too busy to write during harvest.

Sept. 1, 44

It is really nice & cool here today. Has been raining almost every day for the past week. Is it any cooler back there now than it has been. Everyone tells me it has been awfully hot there all summer.

We got to see two shows recently the first for quite a while. They were both rather old but they were good anyway.

Was Bob L. gotten back to the states yet. In the letter I got from Bill said that he was on his way back on a hospital ship. Didn't I say whether he was wounded or not. Sure hope he isn't.

Everyone that writes to me thinks that I should be back in before long. I expect to be over here for a while though. Must close now.

Love
Jim

Sept. 5, 1945
Negros, P.I.

★
Dear Folks

It has been a while since I have written to you so will do so now. How is every one back there now? Just fine I hope. I am still O.K.

I got the Combs you sent to me & was sure glad to get them. You said something about mail not being Censored any more. Maybe it isn't in other places but it still is Censored here. They are suppose to quit before very long.

Another boy & myself went swimming this ~~morning~~ morning & then went to a

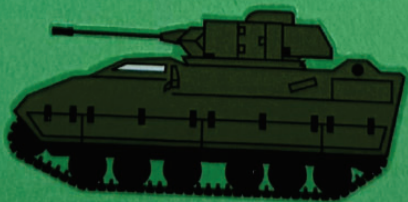


II

Phillipino's house & played table tennis & billiards. They have three girls that look just like an American girl. They are really nice.

We got paid a few days ago & will send ~~the~~ one hundred & fifty dollars in this letter. Will send some more when I ~~can~~ collect my debts from some of the other boys.

I bought me a radio yesterday. It cost quite a bit but I think it was worth it. It works pretty good. We are listening to an Australian station now. Last nite we got stations in the good old U.S.A.



III

I haven't heard from Bob
for quite a while. Is he still
in Atlantic City now I guess
Bob Schneider should be home
by now or at least in the U.S.

They may cut this out
but I will tell you any-
way. The Gaps are all surren-
ding here at last. I got to
see a big bunch of prisoners
they brought in today. Some
of them looked like they
were about fourteen or fifteen
others looked pretty old.

Well there isn't much
to write about so will close
for now.

I am now a
Corporal. ⚔

Love
Jim

One Nation,
under God...
with Liberty
and Justice for all.

In God we trust.

Cpl James J. Hunter 37755982
C.O. 503 8th Inf.
APO 415, 6 P.M.
San Francisco, Calif.



Mr. Emil Hunter
Waff
Kansas

PASSED BY



Negros PI
Sept. 16

Dear Folks

How is every one back there now? Just fine I hope. I am as good as could be

The co. has moved back in Fabrica now and we are set up in the big saw mill here guarsing the Japs It isn't bad at all. I guess we are going to move pretty quick. As yet I don't know where we are going but I think we will go on a ship. I hope it is the States but I don't think it will be.

Is Bob still in New York. I havent heard from him for quite some time now. Havn't been pretty busy lately and havent written to him. Did Bob Schneider get a typewriter to I sure hope that he did. He has been over th here for quite some time. I don't know if he doesn't work to good

may go for me so I will write the rest by hand. I almost forgot how to operate a typewriter anyway. Will have to practice up on it a little now that I have a chance though.

We are suppose to get our wool clothes back again so I guess it will be cold where we are going anyway. Maybe we will have a white Christmas aftersall. No.



If we have to leave here I would just as soon go to Japan as anywhere just to see what it is like there. Might as well see all of the world while we are at it. A lot of the boys say we are going back to the States & a lot of them say Japan. As for myself I don't believe we are going back to the U.S. yet. I really don't know what to think about the situation.

How is school this year? Are they going to have a football team. I didn't get my invitation to the Alumni yet but.



USA



I don't think I could have
made it anyway. Ha.

We have about 1700 dogs
right under us now. They
all seem to be pretty happy.
They should be though be-
cause they will probably get
home before we do.

Well there isn't
much to write about so will
close for now as I have a
few more letters to write
now.

Love
Jim

Sept. 22, 45
Negros, P.I.

Dear Folks

How is everyone back there now? Just fine I hope. As for me I am just as good as ever.

Guess we are going to move again. This will be one time I can tell you where we are going. We are going to Yokohama. It is a big Navy base close to Tokyo. I don't think we will be there very long.

Is Bob still in New York? I haven't heard from him for a long time. In fact I haven't heard from anyone for a long time now. The Mail just isn't coming like it should be.

They think it will take us about fifteen days to get there so if you don't hear from me for a while you don't need to worry.

It is supposed to be pretty cold there so maybe we will have a white Christmas. I should be home by next Christmas. Hope so anyway.

We are all packed up ready to go. Think we will leave here day after tomorrow. Might as well see it all while we are over here. I would just as soon be there as here, as long as we have to be over here anyway.

Maybe when we get there we will be able to get a few things that we can't get here, aren't able to get here,

We haven't seen any snows here for a long time now. Sure hope we get to see some before long.

Well there isn't much to write so I will close for now. Happy birthday Dad. I almost forgot about this being your birthday.

As ever,

Jim



Sept. 26, 45
Negros, P.I.

Dear folks

Received your letter yesterday and was glad to hear from you. It has been almost two weeks since I have heard from you.

I suppose Bill is in the Army by now. If he doesn't have to stay in so long it will do him good. Don't think it has hurt me in any way. I certainly got to see a lot of places that I wouldn't have otherwise.

We may get to see a lot more of it before long. Might as well see it all while we are at it.

How is Dad getting along now? Hope is all right by now. I have a bad cold right now. Don't know how I caught it.

We really had a good hard rain here last night. The sun is shining now and I suppose it will be plenty warm by noon. I don't know where it rained the most. Here or New Guinea. Both places are bad enough.

I got a letter from Bob a few days ago. The first from him for quite some time now. He is

GEARIN'
UP!



sure getting to see all of the States while
ne is at it.

They called off the shipping order to Japan
so don't know whether we will get there or not.

Some of the boys think we will go back to the
States but I don't think we will for A while
anyway.

They are sending A lot of the boys home
but don't think we will be lucky enough to be
with them. We may be home by July or August
next year. Sure hope so anyway.

They were suppose to have A big dance here
last nite but the rain spoiled everything. They
have them out side so when it rains they have to
call them off. Maybe they will have it tonight.

Did Bob Schneider ever get home yet? Haven't
heard from him for quite A while. No one has said
any thing about him being home so guess he didn't
make it yet. Hope he gets there soon. He has
certainly been over here A long time.

When does Goff have their first football
game and who do they have it with. Don't sup-
pose they will have much of A team this year.

Cpl. James J. Huerter 37735982
Co. D 503 Precht. Inf.
A.P.O. 715, % P.M.
San Francisco. Calif.



Mr. Emil Huerter
Goff,

KANSAS



If the School puts out A paper this year
I sure wish you would send it to me. I probably
won't know many of the kids anymore. When I was
home on furlough there was A lot of them that
I didn't know then.

We had A show here the other night but I
didn't go. It looked to much like rain. It
didn't rain so now I wish I had of gone.

Well there isn't much to write about so
will close for now.

Love

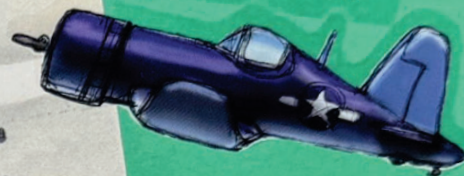
Jim

P.S.

When you get Bill's address send it to me
and I will write to him.



F-4U Corsair



Oct. 8, 45
Dumagete,
Oriental, Negros

Dear Folks

It has been a few days since I have written to you so will try to write a few lines tonight.

We are now across the island from where we were. The name of the town is Dumagete. It is a pretty nice place. The prices are quite a bit lower here than they were any place we have been so far.

They also have some very good ice cream here. Sgt. Keller and myself went to town and had a swell time last night. We went and ate some hamburgers first then some ice cream and later on we went to the show. The name of the show was, "Thunder Head". It was pretty good. They had it in a regular theater in town. They are having a dance and also another show to night but decided to stay home and go to bed early tonight.

Maybe Geoff won't have such a bad team after all this year. Bern generally has a pretty good team. Hope they go a long way this year.

I got a letter from Lindy the other day and I guess he doesn't think much of Mrs. Shaw as a teacher. He said that Bob was supposed to be on his way home. Hope he gets out of the Navy. Maybe I will get out in about six months. It isn't so bad now that the war is over. I sure hate to move around all the time. There is too much work to it. Always have to clean off a new area when we move.

We are living in tents again now and as yet haven't gotten any electric lights. They wired the tent today but they can't get the generator to run tonight.

I will send another money order home with this letter and also some mother of pearl. I want you to keep the mother of pearl until I get home and then I am going to get some thing made out of it. There is supposed to be a set for a ring and the others are for ear rings.

Suppose Bill is in the Army by now. Hope he likes it. He might as well learn to like it because you get along better if you do.

How is Uncle Elmer getting along now? I hope he is doing alright now. Maybe he is getting to fat now.

Did you get my last money orders? Be sure to write and tell me when you get them. I never did find out if you got the money I sent home last March 19. It was sent right to the bank in Geoff. Please check up on it and see if it got there or not. Also there was one sent Sept. 8.

M3 Halftrack



U.S. ARMY

The one sent Sept. 8 was sent to you. There was one sent a few days before that that I forgot to tear the receipt off of it before I sent it. I don't remember where it was for \$100 or \$200. The one sent Sept. 8 was for \$100. Please check up on these and let me know what I have in the Bank.

We have the area pretty well cleaned up now but we are suppose to start training Monday. I may not have to do to much of it because my job only calls for taking care of the mail. It takes me about five minutes every day to take care of it. Not bad.

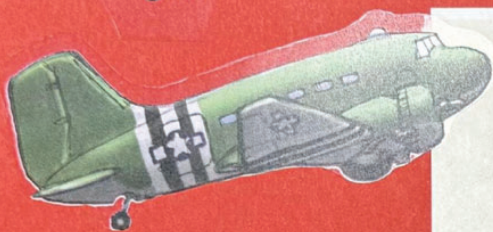
Well there isn't much to write about so had better close for now. Will write some more in a few days.

Love,

Jim



C-47



Oct. 16, 45
Dumagete,
Negros, P.I.

Dear Folks

Well I haven't heard from you for quite some time so I will write anyway. How is every one back there now? Just fine I hope. I am still O.K.

Some time if you have A visiter from St. Joe I want you to give him A nice Country dinner. Sgt. Wilson is from St. Joe and Is going home soon and he said that he might stop in to see you. He is A little short boy and is A very good friend of mine. I sure wish that I was going home when w he is but I guess I can't be that lucky.

We have been having quite A few shows here lately and they are getting some of the newer ones. We have A different show almost every night.

Last night we had A company party and dance. We all had A swell time. They had some of the best Ice Cream that I have had for A long time. That is the first time we have ever had A party in the Army where there were more girls than boys. Of course we could of gotten enough boys for the rest of the girls out of other Companies but as long as we were paying for everything we didn't think we should invite anyone else. They are all pretty nice girls and had to have chaperons before they could come.

Most of the girls that were there were from the University. There was one girl that we met in Bago while we were guarding th the bridge there. She was really surprised to see us down here.

Where is Bill at now? I hope that he gets stationed close to home so that he can go home more often that I got to. I haven't heard from Bob for A long time now. I have written to him several times lately.

There have been quite A few boys going home from the Co. and there aren't any more coming in so I guess before long we won't get have A very big Co. The boys with 70 points are waiting to go home now. That is what Wilson has. By the way his first name is Gilbert. When I get home I know for sure that he will be down once in the while.

Whell there isn't much to write about so I will close for now. Hope to hear from you soon.

Love

Jim

M4 Sherman





Oct. 19, 45
Dumagete, Orent.
Negros, P.I.

Dear Folks

After so long of A time the mail started to come through and I got A letter from you. Guess Goff's team isn't much good this year or else soldier has A real good team.

The boys with 70 points and above left for home yesterday. Sure wish I could of gone with them. Most of the boys that are left here now are boys that came over after I did. The boys that came over when I did are now classed as the old boys in the outfit.

They told us A few days ago that we would be on our way home some time in the spring. They aren't going to send any more men home from our outfit on the point system. They are going to send them all home as an outfit. I sure hope they don't change their minds again.

Gilbert Wilson left yesterday and he said that he was going to go down and see you as soon as he could. He is a T/Sgt. now and was my platoon Sgt. before I got the job that I have now.

Was glad to hear that Bob Schneider got home. He will get discharged before long probably. When is Bill going to have to go to the Army or is he going to stay home now? I don't know what has happened to Bob. I haven't heard from him for quite some time now. He use to write at least once every two weeks.

We have been having quite A bit of fun around here lately. There are having A lot of shows and dances and there are really some nice people here. This is the best place we have been since we left the States.

Probably by the time you get this letter you will have seen some snow. Boy I sure wish we would get to see some this year. It is so damn hot here that when we do get back where it is cold we will probably freeze to death.

There isn't much to write about so will close for now. Hope to hear from you soon.

As Ever,

Jim





P-40 Warhawk

Oct. 24, 45
Dumaguete
Negros

Dear Folks

Well I can now see myself staying over here about another year. We are getting one of the dirtiest deals any one has ever had in the Army. They are going to take us off of jump pay and send us to the 96 Division.

They are just A new outfit over here and will probably be over for A few more years. Everyone is so mad that they don't know what to do. They tell us we are going home and then they really gite us A raw deal like that. We will lose \$50 and have to stay over here A lot longer. I guess things are rough all over this year. Ha.

The 96 is now on Mindoro where we started from. That is where we started one of the ~~first~~ worst islands we have been on. It is almost As bad as New Guinea. I guess it can't last forever. It isn't so bad now that the war is over.

Well how is everyone back there now new anyway? Just fine I hope. Is Bill in the Army yet. If he isn't he had better stay out now. The way things are going now I wouldn't advise anyone to get in.

We got to see some good shows over here lately. We saw "Kiss and tell" also "The George White Scandals" "Men in her Diary" They were all good shows.

Is Bob still in New Jersey? I haven't heard from him for quite some time now. Don't know what has happened to him.

We now have A P. X. where we can buy magazines and candies. That sure helps to build up our morall. He. In all papers they say that the men that have seen combat will be home for Christmas. That is getting to be quite A joke as far as we are concerned.

This use to be A good Regiment but now all the old Officers that have seen any combat have gone and the new ones that just came over after the fighting was all over have over and it just isn't worth A DAMN.

Well there isn't much to write about so I will close for now. Hope the next time I write I can I can write about something more pleasant.

As Ever

Jim

*I am sending some
Negatives & you can get
them Developed*



Oct. 27, 45
Lamagute
Negros, P.I.

Dear folks

Well I have a little extra time so I will try to write a few lines now. Now is everyone back there now? Just fine I hope. I am still O.K.

Say is Louie Schmit over here in the Philippines somewhere. I saw in a paper where it said something about a Louie Schmit over here and was ~~over~~ was wondering if it was the same one.

Can you get any films back there now? If you can I wish that you would get some 127 and send them to me. You can send a roll in an Air Mail envelope. They will get here as soon as a letter would that way. If you can't get any 127 and can get any other size get some of them and send them. I can always borrow a camera and take some pictures.

I heard from Sgt. Mouras a few days ago and I guess that he is a Mr. now. He said that it sure took him a long time to get home because of the transportation but he was sure glad to get there.

Well maybe I will get home some time in March. The 96th is scheduled to go home then. The 60 pointers are all going home with the 503 so I will probably get to come home with the 96. Sure hope so anyway. The worst part of it is that we will loose \$50 a month. We won't have to jump anymore though. I don't think that I would jump again now that the war is over anyway.

It was alright as long as the war was going on. I would just as soon jump into combat as to make a beach landing. One is just as bad as the other.

Well there isn't much to write about so will close for now. Guess this letter was short and sweet. Well short anyway.

As Ever

"Jim"



Nov. 7, 1945

Dear Folks

I don't have much time to write but I want to send you the Company History and I want you to save it for me.

How is everyone back there now? Just fine I hope I am still O.K.

We are suppose to get paid this afternoon so I will send some money home before long.

Must close for now.

Jim

HISTORICAL RECORDS OF EVENTS
Company "D" 503d Parachute Infantry

1 May 42

Co "A" 504th Prcht. Inf. activated 1201 hr Per Pa. 1 GO No.1 HQ 504th Prcht. Inf., Ft. Benning, Ga., Capt. Ralph R. Bates Commanding. Personnel obtained from Prcht. School Ft. Benning, Ga.

28 June 42

Co. arrived Ft. Mitchell, Ala. from Ft. Benning, Ga. Entrained for Ft. Bragg, N.C.

29 June 42

Co. arrived at Ft. Bragg, N.C.

12 July 42

Co. reached T/O strength of 8 Officers & 119 EM.

9 Oct. 42

Co. left Ft. Bragg, N. C. by rail destination unknown.

15 Oct 42

Detained at Camp Stoneman, Calif.

19 Oct.

Left Camp Stoneman, Calif. for port of embarkation. Destination unknown.

20 Oct 42

Boarded Army Transport at San Francisco, Calif. Destination Unknown.

30 Oct. 42

Arrived at Balboa, Panama. Remained aboard ship. Sailed at 1300 hr. Destination unknown.

2 Dec. 42

Debarked at Cairns, Queensland, Aust. Pitched bivouac at Gordonvale, Queensland, Aust. 1930 hr. Co. Strength was 8 Officers & 119 EM.

31 Dec. 42

"A" Company, 504th Prcht. Inf. redesignated as Company "D", 503 Prcht. Inf. (secret letter WDAGO, file No. AG 320.2 (11-3-42) OB-1-E-M dated Nov. 8, 1942) Strength 8 Off. & 119 EM.



19 Aug 43

Co. left Gordonvale, Queensland, via truck to Cairns airport where it emplaned at 0600 hr. Arrived Port Moresby, New Guinea at 100 hr. Strength at this time was 6 Off. & 109 EM.

5 Sept 43

Co. made its first combat jump at Gabjoukek, west of the Japanese Garrison at Lae, in the Markham Valley, New Guinea at 1000 hr. ~~Strength at this time~~ 6 Officers & 105 EM jumped. "D" Co as part of the 503 Prcht. Inf. Regt. had the mission of jumping in the Markham Valley and setting up a defensive perimeter around the airstrip at Gabjoukek, Ne Guinea. Pvt. Elmore wounded accidentally was the only casualty. Duration of campaign was 12 days, although the Lae and Salamua battles continued. Authority for this jump cut off the left flank withdrawal of the enemy forces through the Markham Valley, came from HQ 503d Prcht. Inf. Regt.

16 Sept. 43

3rd Platoon emplaned and returned to Port Morseby, New Guinea.

17 Sept. 43

Co. Flew from Markham Valley to Port Morseby, New Guinea.

19 Sept. 43

Capt. Bates transferred from duty and command of company. 1st Lt. Cole took command of company.

3 Nov. 43

1st Lt. Cole commanding company promoted to Captain.

11 Feb 44

Co. left Port Morseby by Army Transport for ne station.

17 Feb. 44

Arrived in Brisbane, Qld. Aust. Harbor 0500hr. Moved by truck to new station, Camp Cable.

5 April 44

Co. left Camp Cable by truck and boarded Army Transport at Birsbae Qld., Aust. Harbor for new station.

14 April 44

Debarked at Debadura, New Guinea. Pitch Bivouac at new station.

4 June 44

Co left camp via truck to ariport where it emplaned at 0515hrs. Arrived at Hollandia, Dutch New Guinea at 1115hr. Moved via truck to new camp site.

15 June 44

Co. left camp and moved to Pie Beach, Hollandia, Dutch New Guinea. Boarded LCT and moved to new area at Hollonick Beach, 47 miles away.

16 June 44

Co. performed Guard Duty at 6th Army HQ. Lt. Gene. Krueger Commnd.

30 June 44

Broke camp and boarded LCT at 1030hr. and moved to Pie Beach. Then via truck to new camp site at Ebeli Plantation, Hollandia, Dutch New Guinea.

8 July 44

Co. broke camp and moved via truck to airport. Remained at airport.

9 July 44

Emplaned 0600hr at Hollandia Airport, and Arrived at Biak Island 0830 hr. March 2 mi to Bivouac.

WORLD WAR II



10 July 44

Co. Bearded LCI 1700hr. at Biak, And sailed 1500hr. Destination Noemfoor Island, Dutch New Guinea.

11 July 44

Debarked at Noemfoor Island, Dutch New Guinea.

12 July 44

Co entered combat with Capt. Mead Commanding and killed five enemy on rough cross country trail. Arrived at Inasi Village.

13 July 44 to 1 Aug 44

Contact with enemy consisting mostly of patrols, Enemy casualties 4 Off. and 77 EM KIA with 3 EM captured. Co. suffered casualties of 2 Off. and 3 EM KIA and 2 EMWIA.

2 Aug. 44

Left Inasi Village, Noemfoor Island 1000hr. Arrived at Namber Drome, Noemfoor 1400hr. Pitched Camp.

25 Aug. 44

One of our patrols killed 2 enemy

28 Aug. 44

Co. left Namber Drome. Boarded LXM arrived at Kamiri Drome, Noemfoor Island 1530hr. Moved via truck to permanent camp site 6 miles from airport.

20 Oct. 44

T/O changed from 10 Off. and 156 EM to 6 Off. & 125 EM.

23 Oct. 44

A formal ceremony participated in by all units of the 503 Remimental Combat Team, was held on the 23d Oct. 1944 for presentation of these awards. Memorial services for the Noemfoor Island campaign were held the same date at the Neomfoor Island Cemetery.
~~During the Noemfoor Island~~

31 Oct 44

Co completed training program.

1 Nov 44

Spent in issuing individual equipment, packing & crating of Co equipment.

8 Nov 44

Broke camp at Kamiri Drome 1000hr. Moved via truck to beach Boarded LCVP. Moved out in harbor and boarded USS Custer 1300hr.

9 Nov 44

Still aboard USS Custer waiting to sail. Destination Unknown.

14 Nov 44

Sailed from Noemfoor Island. Destination Unknown.

15 Nov thru 17 Nov 44

Aboard USS Custer. Food was very good. Morale was very high during entire trip.

18 Nov 44

Arrived Taragona Leyte, PI 0600 hr distanced traveled by boat 970 miles. Helped to load equipment from ship on to LCVP. Disembarked 1300 and unloaded equipment from LCVP until 1600hr Pitched Camp 1700.

19 to 10Dec.

Co did regular camp duties and staged for their next mission.

U.S. ARMY





11 Dec 44

Co boarded LCI 758. Company broke camp and boarded LCI at 0900. Sailed from Taragoan 1030 and dropped anchor at Tacloban harbor at 1200.

12 to 14 Dec 44

Aboard LCI headed for Mindoro.

15 Dec 44

After a heavy bombardment by Navy ships Co landed on White Beach. Co moved toward San Jose and as they were advancing the Jap air Force struck the Naval Convoy and set one LST on fire. Co went through San Jose and set up a perimeter at 1530 north of the city. No enemy contacted.

16 Dec. 44

Co moved further north and set up a new perimeter in the foothills. No enemy contacted.

17 Dec 44

Co moved back to former positions and set up their perimeter. This perimeter was located on the Bugsanga River.

18 Dec 44

Co sent out several local patrols but no enemy contacts were made.

19 Dec 44

Co moved back toward beach and set up perimeter near San Augustus. no enemy contacted.

20 Dec thru 22 Dec

Co on perimeter, sent out local patrols but no enemy were contacted.

23 Dec 44

Co moved across the Bugsanga River in a Northwestern direction and set up a new perimeter. The 1st plt remained back to go on a three day patrol.

23 Dec 44 thru 25 Dec. 44

Co on perimeter and no enemy activity. The 1st plt rejoined the Co on the 24th and had made no enemy contacts.

~~23, 24, 25 Dec 44~~

26 Dec 44

Co remained on perimeter. Small patrols were sent out with no enemy contacted. During the night the Co was under a Jap Naval Task Force Bombardment for 45 minutes. No casualties were suffered.

27 thru 30 Dec 44

Co remained on perimeter. Small patrols were sent out but no enemy were contacted.

31 Dec 44

Co moved back across the Bugsanga River and occupied perimeter which they had occupied "U" Day.

1 Jan thru 30 Jan. 45

Co sent out several small patrols but no enemy contacted. Finally set up permanent camp site near the Capitol, San Jose. where they stayed until ~~the~~ Feb. 16, 1945.



-1-
Dec. 5, 1945
Marionaka, Japan

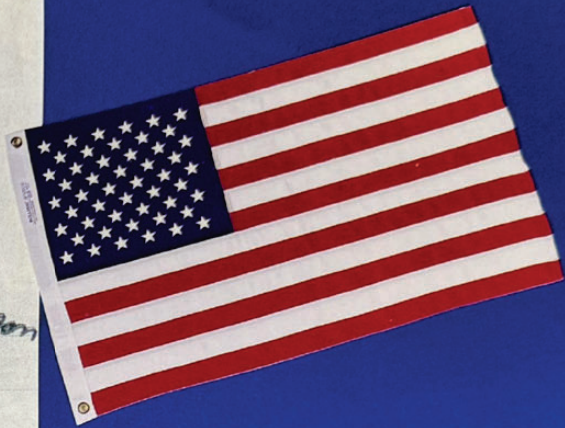
Dear Folks,

Well We are now in Japan & have been for about a week now. We are in the 11th Airborne now instead of the 503rd.

I have run across several of the boys that came over seas with me. We had our Thanksgiving dinner the Sunday after Thanksgiving. We really had quite a dinner though. Turkey with all the stuff to go with it.

The Company Commander is renting my typewriter so now I have to use a pen. I have almost forgot how to write.

We are living in some Japanese school rooms here. They must have been put up in a hurry as they are just stuck together. We have a lot of stoves though so when it gets a little colder we just put up a.



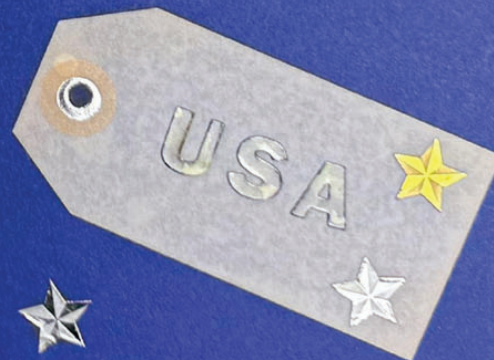
- 2 -

another stove. It hasn't been so cold here yet but there is about a foot of snow out now. This is the first snow I have seen since I have been in the Army & after I left Kansas. Was sure glad to see some snow again.

Say if you can get any 127 films I wish you would send me some. Don't send anything with them & send them by Air Mail. They will get here pretty quick that way.

I haven't gotten any mail since I have been here & don't expect to get any for awhile. It seems like I always have to start moving around when I have some packages on the way.

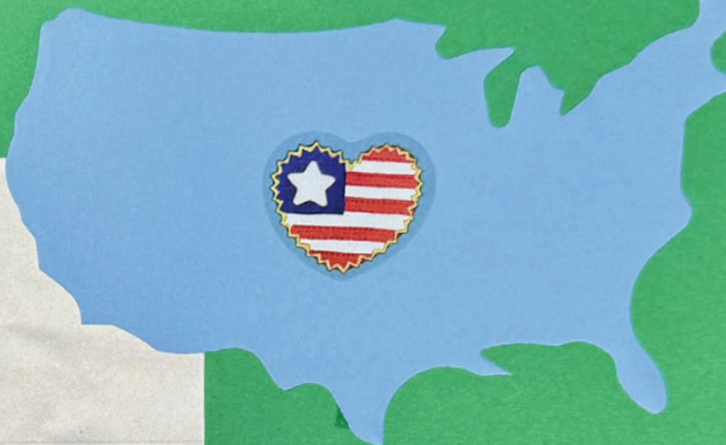
Now I will tell you about the job I have here. I am working for the Red Cross. About all I have to do is take care of the gas cooking stoves going & make the coffee. We start serving coffee in the morning at 8:30 until 10:30 afternoon from 1:00 until 3:30 at night from 7:30 until 9:30. I have



P-40 Warhawk



- 3 -



be around here most of the time but we have
Gaps to do the work. We have six Japanese
girls that work in the day time & also four men.
Later on we are going to have two or three girls
work at night. They serve the Coffee & wash
the Cups.

Today one of them brought a bunch of
picture post cards for another boy & myself. There
are some real nice ones. Will send them
home when we get them decided. It is
a good job. I really have to do more work
at this than I did when I was a mail Clerk
but it gets old when you lay around all
day. I like it anyway.

What has been going on back there lately?
Have you had much snow back there lately?
I don't know when I will get back there but will
surely be there by this time next year. I am getting
so disgusted. They keep lowering the points but
the boys aren't going home. They have it down
to 55 now but the 60 pointers haven't left yet.



M4 Sherman



ARMY

- 14 -



Have you heard from Bob lately? I haven't heard from him for a long time now. May be he is pretty busy down there. I know how it is at times. This is the first letter I have written since I have been here.

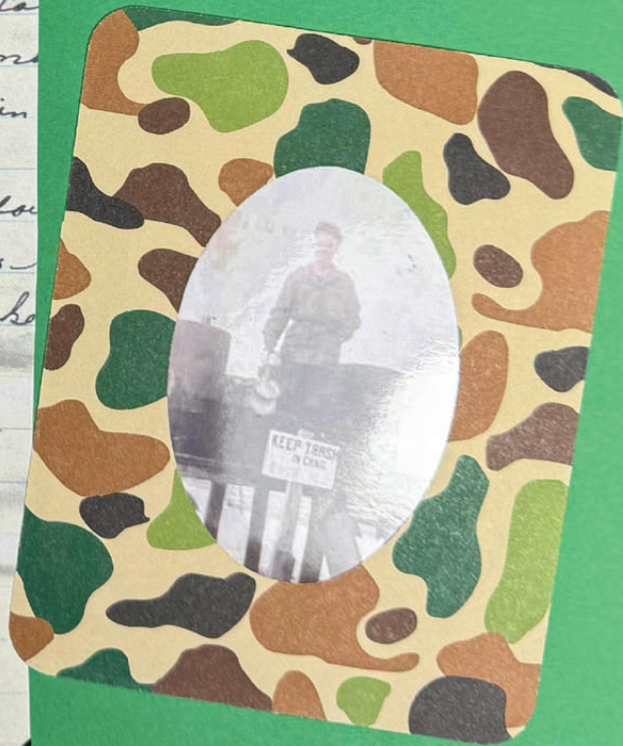
We are stationed just out of a town called Nariokaba up in the Northern part of Honduras. It is about the same climate as they have in Southern Alaska.

Well there isn't too much to write about as I haven't been in town yet. After I go to town I will write & tell you what it is like. Will write some more later.

Love

Jim

Cpl. James J. Venter
Co. "I" 511th Parachute Regt.
APO 468, 9th Div.
San Francisco, Calif.



Dec. 13, 1945
Matsuyama, Japan

Dear Folks

Well I have a little extra time tonight so I will write you a few lines. How is everyone back home now? Just fine I hope. I am still A.D. & am getting rid of my Cold now & am feeling pretty good.

I am sending a picture that was taken here in the Red Cross & was in the Japanese News Papers. We didn't make the front page though. Damn it. We. It is also supposed to be in the Paper put out by the 11th Airborne.

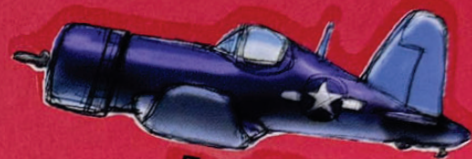
Air mail has started catching up with us now. I got four letters yesterday. I was very surprised as I thought it would take a little longer to get here. Hope I get some packages soon.

Will you send me some stuff to eat. Something like Cheese in a Can, & some stuff





B-17 Flying Fortress



F-4U Corsair

Also send me some Cough drops & Nose drops like that. If you send it in cans it gets her in a lot better shape. Also send me some films if you can get them. Send them in a small package & by Air Mail. One of the boys that works here gets a lot of packages from his wife so we have something to eat every night before we go to bed. He is really a swell boy.

Say if Gilbert Wilson does come down tell him I have the negatives of the films & I will send them to you & you can have some prints made & send it to him. They all belong to him anyway. There are some of the other boys that want a set of them also. When I send them I will send you the address of the boys that want them.

It has been snowing here for the last three or four days now. It hasn't been very cold though. Of course I don't get out very much but it is pretty warm inside.



M3 Halftrack

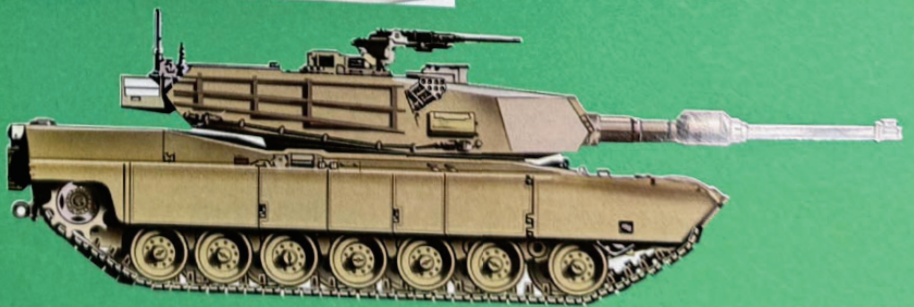
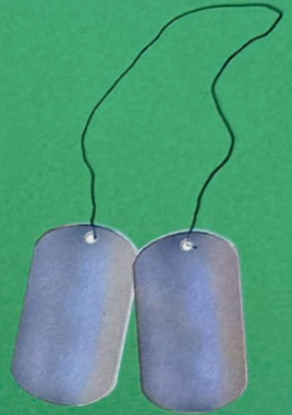


You ask how many points I had. Well I can't tell you as I don't know for sure. I think I have 39 or 40. I guess it will be a while before I get home. It isn't too bad here. We are living in pretty nice buildings & stay nice & warm.

Is it pretty cold back there now? I guess it is getting about time for it to start getting cold.

I didn't know until a few days ago that I am getting paid a little extra for working here. I think we get about \$15 a month from the Red Cross. That way I make about \$150 a month. That isn't so bad for a month.

Well there isn't much to write about so I will close for now. Send some Handkerchiefs. I need them bad. Am also enclosing some negatives. They were taken in the Philippines. Love Jim





Veterans share stories of war, storms, fatigue

Their experiences ranged from jumping onto Japanese-held islands to freezing boredom in Korea. But one thing they all shared was a sense of duty when called to arms by their country.

Following are a series of short stories told by locals who did their best when it counted.

By Yvonne Diehl

James Huerter

As a member of the 503rd parachute infantry during W.W.II, James Huerter was one of the first American soldiers to invade the Philippine Islands.

Huerter enlisted in February of 1944 and after training, was sent to New Guinea. From there he went to the Philippines and landed on Mindoro Island.

In February of 1945, Huerter loaded up and jumped on Corregidor, located near the Philippine Islands and called the "gateway to the Manila Bay." It was more or less a giant fortified rock with large gun emplacements.

Jumping onto Corregidor was difficult because the United States had blown the entire top side of "The Rock", in order to wipe out the Japanese soldiers who were stationed there.

This made it difficult to land, due to the large bomb craters and sharp tree shrubs. Several soldiers were injured during this jump.

While patrolling on

Corregidor, Huerter and his troop were caught in a hail of Japanese gun fire coming from cliffs above. He was injured when a piece of shrapnel tore through his back.

In addition to that injury, Huerter also was hurt on Negros Island when he stumbled on a knee mortar.

He remembers when General

Douglas MacArthur made his famous re-entry to the Philippines, after vowing he would return. Huerter was part of a detail that guarded a road used by "Mac". "We were supposed to face out and see that there weren't any Japanese, but we weren't any Japanese, but we turned around when he came by," he said.



JAMES HUERTER





Dec. 25, 1945
Morioka, Japan

Dear Folks.

Now is every one back there now after the big Holiday? Just fine I hope. I am just as good or bad as I was before. I didn't get to do any Celebrating this year. I had to help to try and keep the rest of the boys happy by making doughnuts & Coffee for them. I did enjoy myself though. I didn't get to go to Church though that is what I hate worse than anything.

If I could have gotten some mail this would have been a good Christmas. We had the snow & Cold weather which we didn't have last year. That sure helps to make it seem like Christmas.

We had a very good dinner today. All the turkey we could eat & every thing to go with it. Some of the girls that work here brought us some presents so we can't say we didn't get any presents. One of them





gave me a nice pillow, another a small con-
dish, another a picture, one a fan & a doll, and
another a kimono. They are all real nice but
the kimono is the most expensive. They
cost about \$30 or 450 yen. I don't know
whether I should wait to bring them home
with me when I come or try to send them.

What did everyone back there get for
Christmas? You wrote to ask me when I thought
I would be home & how many points I had.
Well I don't know how many points I have
now. They keep changing them all the time.
I did have 44 at one time. When we
were in the 503 they gave us 5 points for New
Guinea & when we got here they took them
away from us. We weren't in a combat area
there so we didn't deserve them.

Well there isn't much to write
about so I will close for now.

Love

Jim



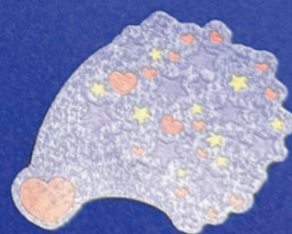


Jan. 7, 1946
Morioka, Japan

Dear Folks

Well I have a little extra time now so I will write a few lines.

We had quite a bit of excitement here a few nights ago. We had a big fire here. The building all all facened together & I thought the hole place would burn. We moved all our personal stuff out & then got all the Red Cross stuff out. By the time we got it all moved out the fire was only about 30 yds from our part of the building. We then started fighting the fire & got it stopped about 20 yds from our part of the building. If there hadn't of been about 2 feet of snow on all the roofs the place would have all burned down. A lot of the boys lost everything but the clothes they had on.



As soon as we saw the Red Cross wasn't going to burn, we started to move the stuff back in & to make coffee. The place was really in a mess as we had moved out in a hurry. We started serving about six in the morning & served until ten that night.

Now I will tell you about the New Year. Charlie, the other boy that works here with me, & I was invited out to a home for dinner.

When we got there we had to take our shoes off before we went in the house. The woman that met us at the door got down on the floor & bowed at us as we went in. Instead of having stoves they have what is called a Chopsit in the middle of the floor with a blanket over it. They gave us a pillow to sit on & you put your feet



C-47



under the blanket to keep them warm. Well our feet kept warm but the rest of us almost froze.

First we had a cup of hot tea. Then they served us dinner. Believe it or not I had to eat with chopsticks & got pretty good with them before I was through. I can now pick up three beans at a time with them. We had three different kinds of fish & of course some rice. Tangerines apples. & some more stuff. I don't know what it was but it was all good. We also had hot sake & wine. By the time we left we were both feeling pretty good. We really had a swell time though. The woman that invited us out works here for us. She has really given us some nice stuff. Tonight when she came to work she brought us some silk to make scarfs out of.



Fletcher Class Destroyer

Well how is every one back there
after all the Celebrating? Just fine
I hope.

I see by the paper that demobil-
ization will be slowed up quite a
bit. I guess that means that I will
be over here that much longer. It
isn't so bad though. I guess I can
hold out for a while yet. I am now
going on my fifteenth month. It
hasn't seemed so long though.

Well that is about all the news
for now so I will close for now.

P.S. I am now in
Service Co.

Love
Jim





Jan 13, 1946
Morioka, Japan

Dear Folks

Well it has been quite a while since I have hear from you but as I have a little extra time I will write a few lines to you.

It has turned cold here & it doesn't snow quite as often as it did. Charlie & I took some more pictures today & I will send them home when I get them developed. There should be some good ones in this bunch.

I don't know what is holding up the mails. I have only gotten two X mas cards. Sure hope it starts coming through soon.

Today I found out how many points. I guess I will get home sometime in April. The 50 painters are leaving tomorrow. There are quite a few boys that came from the 503 that

are leaving tomorrow. Sure do wish I was going with them. Sure makes you feel funny when all your old friends leave. I guess it would seem funny to leave also. At least they say it does.

How is everyone back home now? Just fine I hope. I am still O.K. I have a sore throat but it isn't bad. Will get over it soon.

I got all my hair cut off a few days ago. It sounds foolish but that is an order to keep your hair an inch long. I guess you are just suppose to freeze here. I don't have to get out in the cold very much though. That is one lucky thing.

Well there isn't much to write about so will close for now.

Love
Jim



**It's a GRAND
OLD FLAG!**





Jan. 20, 1946
Moriska, Japan

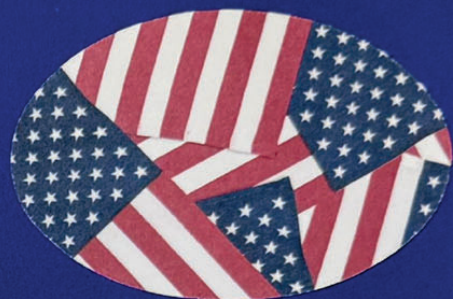
Dear Folks.

Well, here it is Sunday again. It seems like this is about ^{the only} time I get much time to write.

How is everyone back there now? I am as good as could be expected. Have you heard from Bob lately? I wrote to him but guess it will take quite a while for him to get the mail. Hope to hear from him soon.

I guess my mail will start coming through now. I have gotten a few letters lately. Sure hope I get my packages soon.

It snowed very little the last week but it has gotten quite a bit colder. Hope it doesn't get too much colder. It is probably pretty cold back there now. They say the coldest month here is Feb. so I guess it is about the same as back home. It will probably be pretty warm.

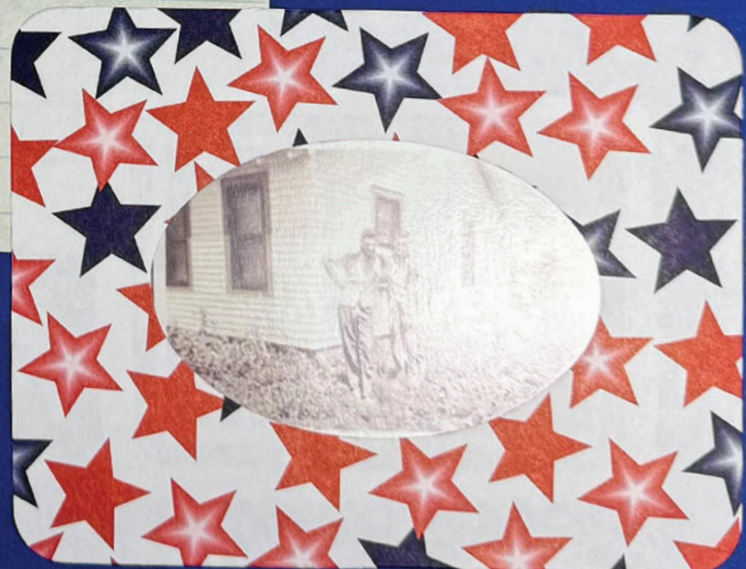




when I get home. I would sure like to
be home for part of the winter but I won't
make it now. Guess there will always
be another winter though.

It seems like the longer I am
over here the less there is to write about.
Can't think of anything else so will close
for now.

Love
Jim



COMPANY "D"
503 PARACHUTE INFANTRY
UNIT HISTORY

16 Feb. 45

Co. broke camp 0930 moved via truck to Hill Strip, Mindoro Island, and emplaned at 1115. Co jumped on Corregidor Island at 1200. Met negligible ground resistance. Lt. Cote, Bitu, Dablock, Joyce, Ackerly, Clearwater, Gray, Schupp, Ziroll, Howard, R. Hunt, Irwin, Jacobs, Neal, Shook were injured of the jump. Very high wind and rough terrain made jumping hazardous. Co moved out and set up parameter above the breakwater south of Corregidor Light House. No enemy contacted.

17 Feb. 45

Took pillbox suffering six casualties. Pucci, Combs, Hess, Verdall and Kayberry were wounded during the assault. Sanguinetti was lightly wounded by schrapnel prior to the patrol. The platoon occupied the pillbox and during the night some ammo which had been lying in the pillbox exploded killing Belane and causing the platoon to evacuate the position. Approximately 60 Japs were killed during the day. Co was running short of food and water.

18 Feb. 45

A platoon was sent out to relieve the platoon set up in the pillbox. Air Corps bombed and strafed enemy positions on shore line just below Co. CP. One napon bomb overshot the target and landed about 30 yds. from Co. CP but no one was injured. Ammo dump on hill overlooking Co. CP blew up at 2315. Co moved and set up parameter above Wheeler Point. The 2nd Platoon, led by Lt. Preston, went into the ravine below Crockett Battery and found C.C. Martin and F. Keller both of whom had been injured on the jump.

19 Feb. 45

At 0430 Japs made "Banzi" attack on Company CP. Japs came out of caves along shore and came up through ravines. They took the high ground above the CP and started charging. About half of the men on perimeter were killed by infiltrating Japs. The rest of the perimeter withdrew closer to the Co. CP which was set up in a plotting room. This plotting room was on Wheeler Point and had observation on three sides overlooking the water and no point of observation overlooking the land. To observe what was taking place to the front, the observer had to be either alongside the plotting room or on top of it. When Japs came up the ravine the CP group were cut off from the supporting fire of the LNG's which were in a big gun position with the 2nd and 3rd platoons. Lt. Turinsky, Schmittle, Arnold, Wenditz, Seal, Foley, Leshinski, Maddy, Schwartz, R. Keller, Bracklein, Marsh and Golonka were killed in action and Lantis, McDonald, Brown, Dolan, Larcher, Majda, Sanchez, Webber, Gorlinski, Howell, Hughart and Martinez were wounded during the attack. Approximately 150 Japs were killed during the attack. The Co moved the perimeter to a spot in the ravine 50 yds. below western end of drill field. While setting up the perimeter Arbuckle was wounded by a Jap who crawled from beneath a parachute and fired at him.

20 Feb. 45

Co occupied perimeter about 50 yds. below western end of drill field. Patrols were sent out and they blew up one small tunnel.

21 Feb. 45

The company went out to clean Japs out of the ravine below the big gun position and to clean out the caves along the water edge. A field artillery and mortar preparation was fired before the company moved out and at 0830 the company moved into the ravine. About a third of the way down the ravine four Japs were found hiding under a culvert and killed. Two more were found in a pillbox further down the trail and killed. A Jap watering point was found which was much better than former points. As the patrol continued down the trail barbed wire entanglements and land mines were encountered. Six Jap anti-aircraft guns were also found. About 20 well armed Japs were encountered in a cave along the water edge. One squad approached the cave from one side. During the attack Pvt. Brady was killed and Lt. Buchanan and Bowers, atchd medic, were wounded. About 26 Japs were killed and two tunnels were blown. Co tied in with "E" Co and set up a perimeter along the shore. No night activity.

22 Feb. 45

Co patrolled through ravine below big gun position and down to the beach. They worked along the shore toward Wheeler Point. They blew up several caves and tunnels and killed two unarmed Japs. Co suffered no casualties.

23 Feb. 45

Co patrolled through to 1st Bn. No activity.

24 Feb. 45

Co went on a patrol into the same area which "E" Co. had patrolled the day before. They patrolled the area below Btry Cheney and then along the shore to "Banzi" point. The Co moved around the point below Btry Cheney and met enemy resistance. Part of the Co moved up along the high ground cleaning out several caves along the way. Pfc. McCarey was killed and Drews and F. Keller were lightly wounded. The casualties were withdrawn to the beach and evacuated by LCM. Co proceeded to "Banzi" Point cleaning out several more caves along the way. When the Co started back they were pinned down by MG and sniper fire. The MGs and snipers were in caves on a hillside and could not be seen. They had the Co's route of withdrawal covered and supporting fire from ridges was very ineffective. The Co called on LCM's to take them off the beach and started withdrawing toward the beach. Holt and Combes were killed and Puckett died of wounds. Finckler, Kurtz, Christian, Rabe, Jenkins and Rickard were wounded during the withdrawal. The Co moved up to the rear of 2nd Bn Hq for a rest. Approximately 20 Japs were killed during the day.

25 Feb. 45

Co occupied perimeter in rear of Bn CP taking a rest. No enemy activity.

26 Feb. 45

Two patrols sent to southern end of island. No enemy contacted.

27 Feb. 45

The Co patrolled the shoreline along Cape Corregidor. Two enemy killed but the Co suffered no casualties. The Co moved perimeter to old position in ravine at west end of drill field.

28 Feb. 45

The Co sent out a patrol to burn and bury Jap bodies. No enemy contacted.

1 March 45

No enemy contacted by local patrols. Policed area for expected inspection by General McArthur.

2 March 45

Co stationed along General McArthur's route at Middleside.

3 March 45

No enemy activity.

4 March 45

No enemy activity.

5 March 45

One squad attended Memorial Services for 503rd dead.

6 March 45

No enemy activity. Ordinance inspection.

7 March 45

No enemy activity. Rgtl ammo dump burned.

8 March 45

0730 moved by truck to South Dock. Boarded LSI 545 at 1500 and sailed at 1700.

9 March 45

Landed on Mindoro at White Beach at 1400. Moved to Begl area.

10 March 45 thru 6 April 45

Training. Received replacements.

7 April 45

Moved by C-46 to Iloilo, Panay. Loaded on LCI and reached Pulupandan, Negros at 1800. Bivouaced in Town Square.

8 April 45

Co moved to Hapilas River by truck. A perimeter was set up in the morning and in the afternoon security patrols were sent out approximately 100 yds. No enemy contacted.

9 April 45

Third Platoon under Lt. Watkins patrolled area for 1500 yds S of Co perimeter from 0900 to 1145. No enemy contacted. At 1745 seven rounds of enemy 49 mm AA were received. Pvt. Macke was slightly wounded by schrapnel.

10 April 45

At 0900 the Co, under Co. Lt. Nickle, started South on patrol. At 1130 2nd Plt Co, Lt. Preston, observed enemy AA fire bursting in vicinity of Bn CP and located approximate

position of enemy Btry. Arty fwd obs, Lt. Hennessy, directed encounter Btry fire without results. Co returned to perimeter at 1800 without contacting enemy.

11 April 45

At 0800 Co entrucked and moved four miles E relieving "E" Co. Security patrols were sent out and discovered three enemy killed by arty or mortar fire. At 2300 Jap patrol contacted perimeter. One enemy KIA.

12 April 45

Co advanced E on foot approx 100 yds and received enemy AW fire. Pvt Ross wounded in leg. At 1300 LMGs fired on enemy positions with no visible effects.

13 April 45

Co relieved by "F" Co and moved approx 900 yds N and set up perimeter.

14 April 45

At 0930 1st plt, under Lt. Mara with 20 guerillas atchd moved out to patrol the S bank of the Mulago R. Patrol returned at 1430 having contacted no enemy. The remainder of the Co under the Co. Lt. Nickle, crossed the Mulago R to patrol the Mamzanares area. At 1300 the patrol received sniper fire but the enemy could not be located. No casualties resulted. At 1400 patrol recovered body of "E" Co soldier killed 13 April at Manzanares. Patrol returned at 1600.

15 April 45

At 0830 one squad, under Lt. Preston, with 22 Guerillas atchd patrolled area 100 yds NE of perimeter. Patrol returned at 1300 having made no enemy contacts.

16 April 45

Patrol scheduled to cross Mulago R but was postponed because of heavy rain.

17 April 45

3rd Plt. Under Lt. Watkins, with one section LMGs, one section of 60 mm mortars and 65 guerillas crossed Mulago R at 0900. At 1500 approx 300 yds N of the Co Filipino civilians were questioned and gave information that approx 400 enemy had moved through the area during the past week. They also stated that Jap foraging patrols were common in the area. Patrol set up perimeter at check point. During night interdiction 81 mm and 69 mm mortar fire was used by patrol. No known enemy casualties.

18 April 45

At 0830 patrol moved E. At 1230 a squad of atchd guerillas engaged two enemy snipers killing a Jap officer. Squad received AW fire from 100 yds S wounding two guerillas. The 1st and 2nd squads under Sgt. Hadrava, engaged the enemy killing three and neutralizing the AW fire. As the patrol reorganized intense knee mortar and small arms fire were received. Pfc. Sierra, Pvt Kimball and four guerillas being lightly wounded 9mm fire directed by Pfc. Bates was effective to a degree but there were no confirmed enemy casualties. The patrol withdrew upon receiving sniper fire from the right flank. Before recrossing the Mulago R, Lt. Watkins directed fire of two tanks on the enemy positions but fire was ineffective due to a masking ridge. Patrol returned at 1830.

19 April 45

At 0900 Co moved 3 miles E on foot to relieve "H" Co. At 1500, while acting as observers for mortar fire, S/Sgt Hadrava was wounded in both arms and Pfc Grey was wounded in left shoulder by enemy AW fire. At 1600 Pvt Cousineau accidentally shot himself in the foot. At 2230 approx 15 enemy attempted infiltration, estimated four enemy casualties.

20 April 45

At 1150 3rd plt, under Lt. Watkins, attacked and secured ridge to left front of Co. No resistance encountered but intensive heavy mortar fire was received during attack. No casualties resulted. At 1130 2nd plt under Lt. Preston, advanced on hill to the right front. Intensive knee mortar fire was received killing Plt Sgt. Rabe, wounding Lt. Preston in leg and Pvt. Ladig suffered shell shock. Pfc Huerter was wounded a few minutes later. The plt was forced to withdraw. At 1330 the 1st plt, under Co Lt Nickle and Plt Ldr Lt. Mara, secured the hill and advanced to the next hill on the right front. Only mild resistance was encountered on the assault but as soon as the hill was secured the enemy countered with very intensive MG and small arms fire from the front and both flanks supplemented by mortar fire. A mortar shell killed Lt. Nickle, amputated t/4 Upchurch's leg causing him to bleed to death and slightly wounded Pfc. McLaughlin. Lt. David's body was on the forward slope in an exposed position and Pfc Schupp and Pfc Fischer were wounded by enemy fire upon trying to recover the body. Pvt. Lapidus received a bullet wound in the neck causing his death two days later. At 1400 the 3rd Plt joined the 1st, one squad, under Sgt Minor aided in securing of the ridge and the other two squads, under Sgt. Eveleth and Sgt. Stowe acted as litter bearers. Lt. Collins assumed command of the Co. At 1430 the 3rd plt, under sporadic MG and small arms fire continued throughout the day. At 1700 one plt of "E" Co advanced to forward positions for support of "D" Co but was repulsed by hand grenades and small arms fire. At 2100 in an unsuccessful enemy attack on a MG position one enemy was killed. Mortar fire continued throughout the night.

21 April 45

At 0400 several Japs including a LMG squad, attacked the Co position and succeeded in entering one of the forward trenches, killing Sgt. Zirco and Cpl Bokencamp. One enemy was killed but several other enemy casualties were unconfirmed. Sporadic small arms fire continued throughout the day. At 1330 Sgt. Cleres was killed by a sniper while observing mortar fire.

22 April 45

At 0530 a short round from "E" Co 69 mm mortars landed by the atchd MG pit killing Pfc Alexander and Pfc. Hendricks and seriously wounding Sgt. Pittneger and Pvt. Jackson, all atchd from HQ Co 2nd Bn. At 0450 the 3rd pit with LMG squad atchd, under Lt. Watkins, attacked the ridge 200 yds to the left front with fire support of Arty, Atchd, 50 cal MGs 81 mm mortars, 60 mm mortars and small arms fire of both D and E Co. Enemy heavy mortar fire was received by the attacking plt but no casualties resulted. At 0600 the 1st plt under Lt. Mara, moved to the ridge to the direct front followed by the 2nd plt under S/Sgt Howard, which moved along the ridge to join the 3rd plt. St. Stowe, of the 2nd plt and Pfc Seims, acting as mortar observer, wounded by enemy MG fire the position was being secured. The enemy continued to place knee mortar fire on the company but no casualties resulted. At 1330 "F" Co notified D Co that two Japs were observed in a cave on the forward slope of that ridge D Co was occupying. Five men from the 2nd plt under Pvt Drew assaulted the cave and killed the enemy. The patrol then moved up the road for

reconnaissance. Approx 50 yds to the front the patrol received withering enemy rifle fire from concealed positions which killed Drew and forced the remaining men to withdraw. With fire support from their entire Co a volunteer group of five men under Sgt Minor and Dolan recovered Pvt Drew's body. The taking of these two ridges allowed for the recovery of Lt David's body.

23 April 45

At 0505 an enemy counter attack with covering mortar and HMG fire was repelled by hand grenades and small arms fire. The Co received no casualties and only one enemy officer confirmed killed. At 1100 the 3rd squad of the 3rd plt under S/Sgt Williams acted as security for mine detecting party forward on the road. Security patrols from the 1st and 2nd plt recovered and unidentified American soldier's body but no enemy were contacted. At 1400 small arms and MG fire dispersed what appeared to be an assembly for an enemy Bonzai attack. Pfc Krause LWA by enemy sniper fire at 1345. No enemy activity during the night.

24 April 45

At 1400 two tanks were brought up to deliver supporting art fire on enemy positions to D Co front. Enemy arty secured a hit on one of the tanks but was immediately neutralized. At 1745 two short arty rounds landed inside the perimeter wounding Pvt Hardy in the arm. During the night several enemy infiltrations were repulsed.

25 April 45

At 0545 enemy again attempted to infiltrate but were driven off by automatic weapons fire. One enemy confirmed killed. At 0900 E and F Co moved NE along road to D Co front. At 1400 the Co less the 3rd plt moved to a ridge approx 400 yds to the direct front without opposition. At 1630 the 3rd plt under Lt. Watkins, joined the Co and then continued to the next ridge for reconnaissance. On reaching the top of the ridge the patrol came upon an enemy HMG squad and several supporting pillboxes. The patrol killed two enemy and then withdrew under AW fire. Pvt. Pitchford was killed and Pvt. Ozarzek LW by enemy sniper fire. Both were MGRs atchd from Hq Co. At 1745 Lt Beatty, in command of atchd Mgs LWA by enemy sniper fire. During the night several attempted infiltrations were repulsed. No casualties.

26 April 45

One enemy LIA attempting night infiltration. At 1130 after an arty and mortar barrage the 1st plt under Lt. Mara advanced to the ridge to the Co right front (SE). The 2nd plt under S/Sgt Howard moved to the 1st plt left flank and the 3rd plt under Lt. Watkins, moved to the right flank. Resistance was light and Pvt Reynolds was the only casualty being slightly wounded with head wounds. Nineteen enemy KIA. Demolitions were used during the day to destroy enemy pillboxes and caves. Shortly after dusk as three atchd arty MGR were setting out booby traps, one enemy attempting to infiltrate activated one of the traps killing himself and seriously wounding two of the arty men. The wounded were evacuated during the night. At 2300 an attempted enemy infiltration was repulsed and two enemy were KIA.

27 April 45

At 1100 Pvt Elias was wounded in the left shoulder by enemy sniper fire. No other enemy contacts were made.

28 April 45

At 1245 after an arty and mortar preparation the Co advanced through F Co perimeter to secure a ridge junction 800 yds to the front. The 2nd plt under S/Sgt Howard, moved up the ridge on the right with the 1st plt under Lt. Mara on the right ridge and in the intervening valley. As the 2nd plt advanced they received intensive small arms fire from both flanks. Small arms fire from the 3rd plt neutralized fire from the left and 60 mm mortars silenced the fire on the right. In the advance Pfc Jackson was KIA and Pfc Benci was wounded in the wrist and leg, both by enemy snipers. When the 1st plt was stopped by small arms fire a heavy concentration of enemy mortar fire wounded Lt. Mara in the legs, Pvt Raines in the hip, Pvt Verdell in the arms and foot and Pvt Hall in the back. Lt. Mara was also wounded in the neck by rifle fire and Pvt Jones was hit in the leg. The 3rd plt moved over to the 1st plt position, incorporated the remainder of the 1st plt as a squad under S/Sgt Davis and with the aid of the 2nd plt of Co E which was attacking on D Co left flank, overran the Jap position. The 3rd plt then continued on along the valley to the ridge junction. Pfc Sierra and S/Sgt Van Horne were LWA by enemy hand grenades. Sgt Konier of atch MGs was wounded in the hand by rifle fire. After the position was secured E Co dug in on the left with D Co in the center and forward and D Co on the right rear. Enemy sniper fire continued throughout the day. At 1630 D Co received 10 replacements 9 of which went to the combined 1st and 3rd plt and 10 of which went to the 2nd. Occasional enemy mortar fire was received during the night but no D Co casualties.

29 April 45

F Co moved forward. Sporadic enemy sniper fire was received during the day but no casualties resulted.

30 April 45

At 0900 the 3rd plt under Lt Watkins, reconnoitered the area 100 yds to the right flank (SE). Patrol returned at 1500 and Bn Demo squad destroyed enemy positions in the bivouac area. Interdictory mortar flares were used during the night.

1 May 45

At 0900 one squad of the 2nd plt under S/Sgt Howard patrolled area 800 yds t find route across Malago R but returned at 1430 with the report the cliff along the river were impassable. No enemy contacted.

2 May 45

At 0900 the Co Lt Collins with Lt. Watkins and 7 men moved NE along the road for the purpose of finding a location for a plt outpost. Approx 900 yds from the perimeter the group was ambushed by several enemy armed with Aws. S/Sgt Wister, Plt Sgt of the atch MGs was killed and the intensity of the enemy fire did not allow the group to neutralize the enemy positions or recover Sgt. Wister's body. The group withdrew but were again fired upon approx 100 yds back along the road. Pvt Buchanan of the atch MGs being killed. A patrol of two squads under S/Sgt Davis, which had left the CP at 0930 to reconnoiter the area to the N of the road, heard the firing and assaulted the enemy on the left flank. The attack was repulsed and S/Sgt Davis was wounded in the leg. The patrol reorganized under S/Sgt Minor and again assaulted the position causing the enemy to withdraw. Reinforcements consisting of the 3rd plt mortar plt and 1 section of LMGs were ordered from the Co. Attempts to lay a mortar preparation on the area failed because of the heavy rain ruining the available ammo. The attack continued with one squad of the 2nd plt under S/Sgt Howard, and one section of LMGs moving up the road to the E and the 3rd plt

under Lt. Watkins moving up the ridge to the N. As the 3rd plt moved through the areas skirmishers and enemy AW opened fire on the left flank killing Pfc Slow, but because of the thick undergrowth and heavy rains the enemy could not be located. The plt continued on until it joined the MG section on the road and then under covering MG and small arms fire the 1st squad, under Sgt Dablock, advanced and recovered S/Sgt Wister's body. The enemy had stripped the body of a TSMG, all other equipment and some clothing. The Co returned at 1400.

3 May 45

At 1300 one squad of the 3rd plt under Pft Rickard reconnoitered to the S approx 300 yds. The patrol discovered two fresh cooking fires but could not locate any enemy. Heavy rains cut radio communications and the patrol returned. At 1500 the 3rd plt under Lt Watkins, moved out to return to the same area but rains prevented the patrol from descending the slick trails so the plt returned at 1630. No enemy contact.

4 May 45

At 1100 the 2nd plt under T/Sgt Howard moved out to patrol area approx 500 yds SE and to contact the 185 Rct. Patrol discovered several small enemy bivouac areas but all had been vacated for several days. At 1130 the plt surprised several enemy and opened fire killing one Jap. Other enemy could be heard talking excitedly in the undergrowth so no attempt was made to search the body. As the patrol was small no attempt was made to engage the enemy and the patrol returned at 1300.

5 May 45

No patrols. No enemy contacts.

6 May 45

2nd plt under T/Sgt Howard moved out at 0900 to reconnoiter the Patog area approx 1000 yds E. Patrol discovered several small enemy bivouac areas and defense positions but had no enemy contacts. Radio contact was lost so patrol returned at 1600. At 0915 the 3rd plt under Lt. Watkins, moved through 1st Bn to Mulago R to find possible enemy evacuation route. Patrol had moved upstream approx 1600 yds when several enemy were discovered. Patrol opened fire killing three enemy but several others escaped. Because of poor tactical position only one body was searched and the patrol withdrew, climbed the steep wall of the gorge and returned to the perimeter at 1730.

7 May 45

No patrols. No enemy activity.

8 May 45

At 0930 the 3rd plt under Lt. Watkins, moved NE to Mulago R with the Co Lt Collins and the CP group moving 500 yds NE to at as possible litter bearers and maintain radio contact. Patrol reached the river and set up security at 1300. Lt. Watkins and one squad under Pfc Hudock crossed river and advanced approx 150 yds up the opposite slope but heavy rains prevented climbing the steep slope. Patrol returned at 1500. 1st plt under Sgt. Nagy, moved S as security patrol. There was no enemy contact but several enemy positions were discovered and blown. Jap explosive with a large quantity of US Cal 30 M-1 ammo in good condition were found. Patrol returned at 1700.

9 May 45

No patrols. No enemy activity.

10 May 45

The 2nd plt under T/Sgt Howard moved S approx 800 yds on security patrol at 0800. No enemy contacts. Patrol returned at 1100.

11 May 45

No patrols. No enemy activity.

12 May 45

Co entrucked at 0800 and moved to Rgtl CP area at 1200. Bn convoy formed and Bn moved through Silay and Bacolod to area approx 500 yds SW of Hill 4055 and 5 km NE of Murcia and set up perimeter approx 1000 yds S of 160 RCT right flank.

13 May 45

At 0830 the 2nd plt under T/Sgt Howard advanced E to act as security for engineers deactivating booby traps set out three weeks previously. The 3rd plt under Lt. Watkins followed to improve trail. With their mission accomplished the 2nd plt set out security until the position was taken over by E Co. As the 2nd plt started to return at 1230 Pvt Wicks activated a bouncing Betty that had been overlooked. The explosion killed Pvt Paine instantly, mortally wounded Pvt Wicks and wounded Sgt. Nagy in the foot. Filipino litter bearers evacuated the dead and wounded and the patrols returned at 1230.

14, 15, 16, 17, May 45

No patrols. No enemy activity. #5 men received two day passes to Cacolod on 16th.

18 May 45

Co moved forward 2000 yds at 0930 to relieve E Co. Small security patrols went out but no enemy contacted.

19 May 45

At 0830 Co moved NE approx 200 yds and set up perimeter along ridge E of E Co.

20 May 45

The 3rd plt under Lt. Watkins moved E on Secret Trail at 0830 approx 150 yds out the patrol surprised enemy outpost and killed the sentry. The patrol split with the 1st squad under Sgt Dablock and the 3rd squad under S/Sgt Williams frontally attacking the enemy positions. Two enemy were KIA but attempts to flank the position were unsuccessful. Enemy HMG fire wounded Pvt Brandon in the shoulder and the Co withdrew in order to put an arty concentration on enemy positions. Approx 60 rds were fired but because of terrain and difficulty of observation were generally ineffective. At 1330 the Co resumed their former position and the 2nd plt under S/Sgt Minor moved E along the crest of ridge to find an accessible route of attack. No enemy were contacted and no route was found. Co withdrew to E Co perimeter to allow for night interdiction fire.

21 May 45

At 0900 the Co Lt Collins, the 3rd plt under Lt. Watkins, and the 2nd plt under S/Sgt Minor moved E on Secret Trail to assault the enemy position. As the 3rd plt led up the side

of the ridge an enemy outpost opened fire and wounded Pvt Rouse in the head. Other enemy small arms fire and HMG fire the 2nd and 3rd squad laid down a base of fire which the 1st squad under S/Sgt Dablock unsuccessfully attempted to flank the position on the right but were prevented by the steep slope leading to the Jap position. After the enemy had evacuated this area it was discovered that the defense consisted of a total of 24 pill boxes in three supporting lines, surrounded by slopes too steep to climb without great difficulty. When flanking the enemy was found to be hopeless the Co withdrew and returned to the perimeter at 1330. One enemy KIA during attempted night infiltration.

23 May 45

Co left position at 0830 and moved SW 2000 yds to occupy F Co positions. As the lead scout entered the area enemy snipers killed 3 atch engineers. A patrol from the 2nd plt under S/Sgt Minor were unable to locate the enemy. Attempted night infiltrations were repulsed by small arm fire by the mortar and 3rd plt.

24 May 45

At 0800 a security patrol of the 2nd plt under S/Sgt Minor was sent out. It returned at 1000 and reported no enemy in the vicinity. At 0930 Lt. Watkins and the 1st squad of the 3rd plt under S/Sgt Kablock moved E to reconnoiter the area 1500 yds E of the perimeter. 200 yds out many Jap tracks were found on the trail and communication wires to D Co were found to be cut. The patrol returned to report what they found and to take out the remainder of the 3rd plt. As the patrol was returning a four man patrol from Regt HQ passed through the area heading E on the trail. At the point where the 3rd plt patrol turned back the patrol was ambushed and one man was killed. Two of the men were pinned down by enemy fire while the fourth escaped to get aid. Lt. Watkins plt arrived at the ambush and laid down a base of fire and recovered the body. One enemy was seen but there were no known enemy KIA. A night infiltration by the enemy was repulsed.

25 May 45

At 0900 the 2nd plt under S/Sgt Minor, was sent out to reconnoiter the Davao Area. About 100 yds from the Co perimeter the patrol encountered a large number of enemy preparing defensive positions. The enemy opened fire with AW and small arms pinning the patrol down. The Co Lt Collins took out one section of atchd HMG's and one squad of the 3rd plt under S/Sgt Dablock, to aid the 2nd plt. Several unsuccessful attempts were made to flank the enemy and a frontal assault attempt was repulsed. One attached MG was LWA. The Co withdrew at 1400 after killing 3 Jap EM and 1 Jap Officer. 60 mm mortars fire was concentrated on the area during the rest of the day and during the night.

26 May 45

At 0900 after an intensive mortar concentration the 3rd plt under Lt. Watkins, moved into the formerly hals enemy position without resistance and set up a strong point. The plt was relieved by headquarters Co 2nd Bn and returned to the company perimeter at 1530.

27 May 45

Co moved NE 1000 yds at 1930 and set up a perimeter 400 yds N of E Co. No enemy contacts were made.

28 May 45

Small security patrols were sent out but no enemy contacts were made.

29 May 45

Lt. Gifford assumed command of the Co. One squad of the 3rd plt and one squad of the 2nd plt under Lt. Watkins, set up a strong point at water hole 250 yds SW of Co perimeter. Security patrols were sent out but no enemy were contacted.

30 May 45

Security patrols active with no enemy contacts.

31 May 45

Security patrols active with no enemy contacts.

1 June 45

Security patrols active with no enemy contacts.

2 June 45

Security patrols active with no enemy contacts.

3 June 45

Security patrols active with no enemy contacts.

4 June 45

At 0800 one squad of the 1st plt, one squad of the 3rd plt and a squad of guerillas under Lt Mars, moved 600 yds N of E Co. The patrol sighted several enemy, opened fire and killed one. Two others were believed wounded or killed. At 1500 the patrol returned having contacted no other enemy.

5 June 45

No patrols, no enemy activity.

6 June 45

At 1430 the company started back to the Regt CP approx 5 km NE of Murcia.

7 June 45

No activity.

8 June 45

The 2nd Bn moved SW to Murcia.

9 June 45

The 2nd Bn entrucked at 0830 and moved approx 1500 yds NW of hill 4055.

10 June 45

No activity.

11 June 45

Co entrucked to move and the Co CP was set up in the Bago village square. The 2nd plt with atchd MGs took over guard duties at the Bago Bridge 24 km S of Bago. The 3rd and 4th plt took over guard duty at the 40th Div ammo dump 14 km S of Bacolod.

12 June 45

The 4th plt moved from the 40th ammo dump to take up guard duty on bridges between Bago and Bacolod.

13 June 45 to 6 July 45

Co remained on guard duty on assigned positions.

7 July 45

At 0730 the Co with atchd MG moved approx 6 mi S of Fabrica on logging train and stopped at the Bn CP. While stopped at the Bn CP at the Dian-ay Bridge, a B-24 dropped a stick of bombs across the area and Sgt. Keller, Cpl Burnett, and Pvts Emery, Lewis and Howe were WA. The Co moved about 5 mi S of the Bn CP and set up a perimeter. At 1300 the Co Lt. Gifford, and the 1st squad of the 1st plt left on a security patrol around the Co perimeter. No enemy were contacted. At 1300 the 3rd plt, under Lt. Watkins, moved west to find a possible crossing place on the Himagaan River. The patrol sighted one enemy across the river and fired upon him with no known affects. The patrol returned at 1730 and reported a possible crossing of Co perimeter at coordinated (15.5 - 23.3). At 2230 Pvt Klienschmidt was accidentally wounded in the arm by Cal. 45 pistol.

14 July 45

At 0900 the Co Lt Gifford the 2nd plt under Lt. Ward, and the 3rd plt under Lt. Watkins, and one section of LMGs under Lt. Pomeroy, moved W to patrol S Bago area across the Himagaan River. The 3rd plt and the LMGs covered the 2nd while they crossed the river. The machine gunners fired upon an enemy who was signed across the river. The 2nd plt and 2 squad of the 3rd crossed the river and proceeded SW. The machine gunners investigated the enemy that it had fired upon and found that he was only wounded. When they approached the Jap he committed suicide with a grenade. Upon investigation he was found to be a naval petty officer. The patrol returned and started to recross the river at 1330. The river, due to heavy rains, was rising rapidly and Pvt Chapman and Mauvis were washed off the rope and drowned in spite of efforts of Lt. Ward, Pfc Beauregard and Santilli and Pvt Usar to save them. Lt. Gifford, Lt. Watkins and 10 men remained on the W side of the river and the remainder of the patrol returned to the perimeter at 1730. At 1600 Pvt Michael was shot in the foot by a Jap sniper.

15 July 45

Lt. Gifford, Lt. Watkins and 10 men returned to the perimeter and the remainder of the patrol returned to the perimeter at 0730. At 0900 the first plt, under Lt. Mara, left the perimeter to try and recover the two bodies of Pvts Chapman and Mauvis. They returned at 1430 unsuccessful.

16 July 45

A patrol led by the Co Lt. Gifford, consisting of the 1st plt under Lt. Mara and the 3rd plt under Lt. Watkins, left the perimeter at 0800 crossed the Himmagaan River and proceeded into the S Bago area. The 1st plt in the lead surprised two Japs and opened fire but the enemy escaped. The patrol returned at 1700.

17 July 45

The Co moved S approx 400 yds on the logging train.

18 July 45

The second plt under Lt. Ward, left the perimeter at 0930 to reconnoiter the area W of Bagan. Swift water and steep banks prevented the patrol from crossing the Himagaan River. The patrol returned at 1500 having contacted no enemy.

19 July 45

At 0940 the Co Lt. Gifford, the 1st plt under Lt. Mara, the 2nd plt under Lt. Ward, and one LMG section crossed the Himagaan River and moved into the S Bago area. Two enemy were fired upon but escaped. One Jap 1st Lt. Was found in a Filipino hut and killed. Patrol set up perimeter at 1600.

20 July 45

Patrol returned to Co perimeter at 1030. No more enemy were contacted.

21 July 45

One squad under Lt. Mara left the perimeter at 1000 to recover body of soldier drowned on 14 July. The body was recovered by unidentified. Small security patrols reported no enemy activity.

22 July 45

Security patrols but no enemy activity.

23 July 45

Security patrols but no enemy activity.

24 July 45

Lt. Gifford went to the hospital and Lt. Collins assumed command. At 0830 the Co moved S approx four miles to Buband and set up squad tents.

25 July 45

The 1st plt, under Lt. Mara, left the perimeter at 0800 on security patrol. Patrol returned at 1000 having contacted no enemy. Lt. Gifford died of meningitis at 0855. At 1600 a native reported 4 enemy 1600 yds SE of Bugang. Patrol of 6 men from each platoon, under Lt. Mara, left the perimeter at 1630 to investigate. The patrol reached the hut and killed one Jap, wounded another and one escaped. The patrol returned to the Co at 1500.

26 July 45

Co moved to Bagang and set up squad tents and started to clean up area for General's inspection.

27 July 45

Co worked on Co area.

28 July 45

Lt. Mara took out a volunteer squad to investigate a native report of Japs being in his house. The patrol reached the house guided by the Filipino and encircled it. One Jap was killed, one was wounded and one got away. The patrol returned to the Co area that night.

29 July 45

The 1st plt, under Lt. Mara, left on a two day patrol into the Balala Valley area. Patrol left at 0830 and returned 30 July 45. No indications or signs of the enemy were found.

30 July 45

The 2nd plt, under Lt. Warren, left at 0830 and went SE to the bottom of the ridge line. They reached Tannon Strait and from there they followed the bottom of the ridge until they reached the end of the spur line. From there they returned to the Co area. No enemy were contacted and no signs of the enemy were found. The 3rd plt, under Lt. Lange, left for Maloposac at 0930 and proceeded about 5000 yds S of Maloposac on the E side of the river. They found a shack with Nips in it and killed three while they were trying to escape. One got away. The patrol continued on for about 500 yds and set up a perimeter for the night.

31 July 45

The first squad of the 2nd plt left on a patrol which covered the ridges between the Himagayan River and Maloposac. No enemy were contacted. The third plt returned having no further enemy contact.

1 Aug. 45

The Co rested.

2 Aug. 45

The 2nd squad of the 1st plt took ammo and communication equipment and was set up about seven miles W of Co area. They delivered the ammo and equip and spent the night in F Co perimeter. On their return the next day they killed one Jap.

3 Aug. 45

The 1st plt, under Lt. Mara, the 2nd under Lt. Ward, and one section of MGs under Lt. Pomeroy, left Burang to patrol the Camao Valley area. The two platoons set up a bivouac area and base of operation in the central part of the Camoa Valley. No enemy contacted.

4 Aug. 45

The 1st plt and 2nd plt left bivouac area and moved S through the Camao Valley. At 1400 the patrol was fired on by an estimated number of 5 enemy. The patrol returned the fire and advanced on the enemy position but the Japs had evacuated the area. No further enemy contact was made. The remainder of the Co went to Maloposac and started to clean the new Co area.

5 Aug. 45

The 1st plt moved SW to investigate suspected Jap bivouac area. No enemy were contacted but the patrol burned 24 shacks. The patrol was resupplied by air at 1700. The remainder of the Co set up the new Co at Maloposac.

6 Aug. 45

The 1st and 2nd plt patrolled the Camao area but no enemy contacts were made.

7 Aug. 45

The first and second plt returned to Maloposac and joined the Co.

8 Aug. 45

The Co rested and cleaned up the Co area.

9 Aug. 45

The Co led by Lt. Stover, left the Co area at 0840 on a three to six day patrol into the S Bago area. No enemy were contacted.

10 Aug. 45

The Co bivouac area and drop zone were located and the 1st plt, under Lt. Mara moved out to patrol the S bank of the Himtican R. No enemy were contacted. The 3rd plt, under Lt. Lange, moved No to locate new bivouac area for the Co. No enemy were contacted.

11 Aug. 45

The 2nd plt, under Lt. Ward, moved S to patrol trail leading to Bago R. The remainder of the Co under Lt. Stover, crossed Himican R and moved NE with mission of contacting 2nd Bn 53 Filipino gt. Which was moving S along the Himagon R. One Nip was sighted but escaped our fire. Co set up perimeter 500 yds N of Himitican R. The 2nd plt returned to their former perimeter.

12 Aug. 45

The Co remained in their bivouac area awaiting resupply. Local patrols were sent out but no enemy contacted. Resupply was dropped by Piper cub at 1600. Co spent the night in the same perimeter. The 3rd plt returned to the Co area at 1930.

13 Aug. 45

The Co moved out at 0800 with instructions to contact F Co patrol on RR tracks at Dain-ay Bridge. Contact was made at 1400 and Co set up perimeter along the tracks.

14 Aug. 45

The 1st plt, under Lt. Mara, moved SE toward Himagon R to contact any enemy desiring to surrender. No contacts were made. The 2nd plt, under Lt. Ward, left the Co area to meet a squad of F Co and a squad of engineers in the Dantiago area. No enemy contacted.

15 Aug. 45

PEACE WAS DECLARED and all patrols were called in. The 2nd plt returned to the Co area and the remainder of the Co remained at the Dain-ay Bridge awaiting transportation.

16 Aug. 45

The remainder of the Co returned to Maloposac and the Co went into GARRISON.

"THE END"

The 503d Parachute Regimental Combat Team, World War II began with the activation of the 503d Parachute Battalion in Fort Benning, Georgia on 21 August 1941. The Battalion was the third of four Parachute Battalions formed prior to the beginning of World War II. The others were 501, 502 and 504.

On 2 March 1942 the 503rd Parachute Battalion was the nucleus around which the 503d Parachute Infantry Regiment was formed. This was the first of a number of such regiments organized over the next few years. The Regiment was transferred to Fort Bragg, North Carolina in March 1942.

On 20 October 1942 the Regiment left the POE San Francisco on the MS Poelau Laut. The first stop was the Panama Canal Zone where the 501st Parachute Battalion was picked up. This battalion was redesignated as the Second Battalion of the 503d PIR, replacing the original 503d's Second Battalion which had been sent to England and, eventually, redesignated as the 509. The Regiment landed in Cairns, Australia on 2 December 1942 after a voyage of 43 days and 42 nights. Later the Regiment was expanded into a Combat Team with the assignment of the 462d Parachute Artillery Battalion on 29 March 1944 and the 161st Parachute Engineer Company on 13 September 1944.

During its more than three years service in the Southwest Pacific Theater, the 503d served in five major combat operations. A number of other missions were planned but called off by higher headquarters.

1. The Regiment jumped in the Markham Valley, New Guinea, on 5 September 1943, in the first successful Airborne Combat Jump. The Regiment forced the Japanese evacuation of a major base at Lae to take a route which proved to be disastrous for them. The third Battalion of the 503d had a major skirmish with the rear guard of this exodus. The successful employment of Parachute troops, in the Markham Valley, has been credited with saving the concept of vertical envelopment from being abandoned following several less than successful engagements in Europe.

2. Two rifle Battalions of the 503d Regiment jumped on the Island of Noemfoor off the coast of Dutch, New Guinea early in July 1944, followed by an amphibious landing by the other rifle Battalion a few days later. The Regiment was employed in the elimination of the Japanese garrison on that Island. Airfields constructed on Noemfoor after its capture played a significant role in supporting the advance of Allied troops from New Guinea to the Philippines. Sergeant Ray E. Eubanks was awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor, posthumously, for his actions on Noemfoor.

3. Following a non-combat landing on the Island of Leyte, in the Philippines, the 503d Parachute Regimental Combat Team made a major amphibious landing on the Island of Mindoro, in the central Philippines on 15 December 1944. Originally, it was intended for the 503rd to jump on Mindoro but due to inadequate airstrip facilities on Leyte an airborne landing was not possible. The purpose of this landing was to secure sites for air strips providing forward Air Corp bases to support later landings at Lingyen Gulf, Luzon. The Combat Team was subjected to intense air and naval actions during this operation, at one point being shelled for 25 minutes by a Japanese Naval task force.

One Company of the Combat Team engaged in a fierce battle against a Company-size enemy air raid warning station on the North end of Mindoro.

4. The Combat Team jumped on Fortress Corregidor on 16 February 1945 to

liberate that Island from occupying Japanese forces. This was the most vicious combat action in which the Combat Team engaged during its existence. Corregidor was the bastion which withstood a fierce Japanese siege for nearly five months in 1941 and 1942, thereby interrupting the Japanese advance toward Australia. The 503rd was proud to have been allowed to have the honor of recapturing the Island. Japanese sources, within recent years have estimated there were 6550 Japanese on the Island when the 503rd landed. Of those, only 50 survived. The 503rd, however, lost 169 men killed and many wounded or injured. The 503rd was awarded the Presidential Unit Citation for its actions. Private Lloyd G. McCarter was awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor for bravery on Corregidor.

5. Almost immediately after returning to Mindoro from Corregidor, the Combat Team was called upon to bolster the 40th Division which was bogged down on the Island of Negros, in the Central Philippines. The Combat team was inserted into Negros by landing craft, although it had been alerted for another combat jump. The objectives of the proposed jump, a strategic bridge and a large lumber mill, were destroyed by Japanese forces, thereby eliminating the first objectives of the 503d. The 503rd engaged in fierce battles against frantic Japanese resistance in the mountainous areas of Negros for more than five months. The 40th US Division convinced higher headquarters there were only a few enemy troops remaining on the Island and were moved to Minanao, leaving the 503rd to battle the Japanese alone. At the end of the War with Japan in August 1945, about 7,500 of the surviving Japanese troops surrendered to the 503rd Parachute Regimental Combat Team.

Official U.S. War Department sources estimated the 503rd killed over 10,000 Japanese troops during its combat operations in the Southwest Pacific.

Unfortunately, the 503rd lost a lot of good men in accomplishing its missions. The names of 348 of these men have been identified. By early November 1945 the 503rd Parachute Regimental Combat Team ceased to be operational. All men with lengthy service in the Southwest Pacific had been rotated to the United States while those who had served the Combat Team for a shorter time had been reassigned to the 11th Airborne Division and sent as occupation troops to Japan. The Regiment was inactivated on 24 December 1945 at Camp Anza, California. Veterans of the 503rd, who served during World War II, began holding informal get-togethers almost immediately after 1945. An Association was established and National Reunions have been held each year since 1957.

Written by Donald E. Abbott, July 1997

Corregidor was more than a military objective when we attacked it in February: the "Rock" had become an important symbol in American history as our last Pacific out post of any size to fall to the enemy in the early stages of the war.

The Japanese took Corregidor on 6 May 1942 after a fairly long siege of attrition followed by landing operations in which their casualties amounted to 5,000 killed and 3,000 wounded in 15 hours. We recaptured the island nearly three years later in perfectly coordinated amphibious assault in which our losses were only 136 killed and 531 wounded.

The Japanese opened their attack on Corregidor with an aerial bombardment on 29 December 1941, five days after General MacArthur moved his headquarters there, but the heaviest attacks throughout the siege were from artillery based on Cavite, and later, on Bataan. When the last American troops on Bataan surrendered on 9 April, the enemy was able to mass his artillery for an all-out shelling of the Rock and its antiquated batteries.

Although the network of tunnels through Corregidor's hills afforded protection to the American garrison, much of the defense activity had to be carried on in the open. By 4 May, many of the guns had been knocked out, the water supply was low, and casualties were mounting. Particularly heavy shellfire prologued the Japs' attempt to land the next night: their officers later admitted that they had been amazed at the savage resistance, which accounted for the sinking of about two-thirds of their barges. The American losses during those fifteen hours before the final surrender on 6 May were from 600 to 800 dead and 1,000 wounded.

Paratroops land on "B" field, one of their two tiny drop zones. This one was edged by 500-foot cliffs, and some of the men went into the water; most of these were rescued by our small craft operating along the shores of the island.

When the time came to avenge that surrender, our air-land-sea team was perfectly conditioned by the long fight back from New Guinea. In December 1943, the softening up of Cape Gloucester, New Britain, before the Marine landings there, gave the Pacific theater a new verb for intense pre-invasion bombings – Gloucesterize.

The Gloucesterizing of Corregidor began on 23 January 1945, when heavy bombers dropped 595 tons on the Rock. Daily strikes by the AAF continued through 16 February, the day paratroops swung down from the sky onto the island, and extended another week, until most of the remaining Nips had been rooted out of ravines and caves. Preliminary figures for the 23 January – 24 February

period show 2,028 effective sorties hitting Corregidor with 3,163 tons of bombs. The Navy began adding to the fireworks on 13 February, with cruisers and destroyers shelling from close to shore; on the following day, minesweepers began operating around the island. During all this time while the stage was being set for invasion, not a single enemy plane or naval vessel interfered with the proceedings. Then 16 February came, and after a sunrise attack by B-24s and an hour of low-altitude bombings and strafings by A-20s, the 503rd Parachute regiment began dropping out of C-47s of troop carrier units of FEAF. They came down on the western heights known as "Topside", while a beachhead was being established by elements of the 24th Infantry Division at San Jose on the east end of the island.

Three hours after leaving their Mindoro base, the 503rd Regiment paratroops were in possession of "Topside". They had a hard landing at the two tiny "go-point" areas, for a 16-18 knot wind sprang up as the planes came along, necessitating a change of timing in the jumpmasters' counts.

The grueling air and naval softening up of the Rock had left the defending Japs dazed and scattered but they rallied, and nearly two weeks isolated groups of them fought on with a suicidal frenzy. But several days before 1 March our forces were in possession of Corregidor, opening the finest harbor in the East to Allied shipping. More than 4,000 Japs were killed at Corregidor, and many more drowned while swimming away from the Rock. Others, estimated to be thousands, sealed themselves in the subterranean passages, and those who destroyed themselves made the island reverberate with underground explosions for many days afterward.

Christian
Herberholz

The Battle of Corregidor

On May 6, 1942, American and Philipino forces surrendered the Island of Corregidor and the rest of the Philippine nation to the Japanese. General MacArthur was committed to regain the Island under his command therefore declaring war on the Japanese. To the American soldier, Corregidor was more than a military objective. The "*Rock*" as it was nicknamed had become an important symbol in United States history as the last pacific outpost of any size to fall to the Japanese.

General MacArthur's strategy was to make a combined water and air assault to retake the island. The airborne phase was risky because the small island was a difficult target for a parachute drop. Complicating the strategy, the paratroopers had to land on a hill with the most difficult terrain known as Topside.

On February 16 AT 0833 the first of one thousand troopers began dropping on the surprised Japanese defenders. Paratroopers and infantrymen battled with the determined Japanese fighters.

The Japanese used many underground tunnels to hide

in for surprise attacks. For days the U.S. used explosives and mortar attacks to kill the Japanese. Finally, engineers poured large quantities of gasoline down the tunnels and set them on fire while sealing the entrances. The fighting lasted until February 26, 1945 when Corregidor was finally declared secure.

Large numbers of Japanese troops drowned while attempting to swim away from the rock. Thousands sealed themselves in tunnels and committed suicide rather than surrendering.

It was estimated that there were seven thousand United States troops and of those 207 were killed 684 were wounded. The Japanese had 6700 troops and 6600 were killed, 50 wounded and 19 were prisoners of the war.

On March 7, 1945 General MacArthur returned to the island for the ceremonial raising of the flag. He was quoted as saying "*I see that old flag still stands. Have your troops hoist the colors to its peak and let no enemy ever again haul it down*".

The honors for recapturing the rock went to the 503 parachute combat team which my grandpa was a member.

Connie

May 5, 2011

David Cordero
759 S. Cotton Meadow Ln.
Washington, UT 84780

Jim Huerter
303 N. Fourth St.
Seneca, KS 66538

Dear Jim,

Thanks for sending me your filled-out questionnaire. I appreciate you taking the time. I have a few follow-up questions, and a note about Into the Rising Sun, by Patrick K. O'Donnell.

First, here is the link to the book on Amazon: http://www.amazon.com/Into-Rising-Sun-Pacific-Veterans/dp/1439192588/ref=sr_1_1?s=books&ie=UTF8&qid=1284878934&sr=1-1

As you can see, used copies are starting at 49 cents. You are mentioned on Page 217, while John Reynolds was recounting his experience in Negros. It reads:

"A mortar shell Lieutenant Nickles, amputated T-4 Upchurch's leg ... I remember McLaughlin rising, blood was running down his face ... yelling: 'Nickles is dead, Nickles is dead. ... A few minutes later, **Private Huerter** was lightly wounded by mortar fragments. ... Shortly thereafter, Lieutenant David was killed by an enemy sniper."

You mentioned on your questionnaire you are good friends with Sgt. Keller. Is that Frank Keller, who stayed with a wounded comrade on a topside slope and basically had to hide from the Japanese for a couple of days until things cleared up? I have interviewed him a few times. Last I heard he was doing well in Pennsylvania.

63

Also, please describe the beach landing on Negros.

Did you and your fellow troopers hijack a supply truck to grab a few rations in Negros? How did that end up working? Anything to eat, right?

What was going through your mind as you rode in the C-47, waiting to jump on Corregidor and begin your combat experience?

Did you know Harry Drews and John Lindgren well?

Thanks so much for your help! I look forward to hearing from you soon.

Sincerely,

David

dcordero78@hotmail.com

435-512-1511

[HOME](#) [ADVANCED SEARCH](#) [COMPANY](#) [CONTACT US](#) [HELP](#)



James J. Huerter

Born:
May 29, 1924



Post:
#7458
Seneca Memorial Post
Seneca, KS

Military Service

VFW Member since:
1950

Branch:
U.S. Army

Theater of Operations:
Pacific

Military Medals:
Bronze Star; Purple Heart w/OLC; Asiatic-Pacific
Campaign Medal; World War II Victory Medal;
Philippine Liberation Medal; Presidential Unit
Citation; Combat Infantryman Badge

[Convert to Lifelong MeMories®](#)

[Military Service](#)

[Sign Guest Book](#)

[Print](#)

Send My Best®

[Flowers & Gifts](#)

[Charitable Gifts](#)

[Purchase MeM
Products](#)

[PRIVACY POLICY](#) | [TERMS OF SERVICE](#) | [COPYRIGHT POLICY](#) | [TRADEMARKS](#)

All contents of this website are Copyright© 1998-2008
Making Everlasting Memories, L.L.C. All rights reserved.

James J. Huerter

Seneca, Kansas

05/29/1924 - 07/28/2021

James J. Huerter, 97, of Seneca, passed away on July 28, 2021, at Nemaha Valley Community Hospital in Seneca, KS, surrounded by his family.

Jim was born May 29, 1924 near Goff, KS. He was the son of Emil and Valeria Johnstone Huerter. He grew up in the Goff Community and graduated from Goff High School in 1942.

Jim entered the U.S. Army on February 28, 1944 at Ft. Leavenworth and was discharged on February 9, 1946 at Ft. Logan, CO. He was assigned to the 503rd Parachute Infantry. During his time in the military, he was in New Guinea, the Southern Philippines and Luzon. He received two bronze stars and was awarded three purple hearts for the injuries he received during the war. He was discharged with the rank of Tec 5.

When he came home from serving his country, Jim obtained a certificate for Electrical. He married Geraldine "Jerrie" B. Enneking on September 3, 1946 at Sts. Peter & Paul Catholic Church in Seneca. Jim and Jerrie celebrated 74 ½ years of marriage.

The couple made their home in the Kelly community, and were members of St. Bede's Catholic Church in Kelly. Jim worked for Love and Osterhaus Construction, and for Adams Township where he ran the grader for 10 years. Jim was later employed by the Nemaha Valley Community Hospital in Seneca from 1963 to 1991.

In 2010 he moved to Seneca; where he was a member of Sts. Peter & Paul Catholic Church and St. Joseph Society. Jim was a member of the Seneca Memorial Post #7458 of the Veterans of Foreign Wars and received his 75-year award for his membership; he also belonged to the Earl W. Taylor Post #21.

His hobbies and interests were woodworking, metal detecting, coin collecting, gardening, fishing, hunting and in his younger days he enjoyed racing cars at the Olberding race track east of Seneca.

He was preceded in death by wife, Jerrie on March 23, 2021; his parents; Emil and Valeria Huerter; a great-grandson, Dyllon Butrick on September 12, 2012; his brother, William on November 18, 2017.

Survivors are his children, Connie (Roger) Battin of Hiawatha, James Jr (Ann) Huerter of Topeka, Gary (Lori) Huerter of Seneca, Ronnie Huerter of Seneca; Cindy (Dan) Carlson of Seneca, Kelli (Greg) Olberding of Seneca; DeAnn (Larry) Herberholz of Scottsboro, Alabama; brothers, Robert Huerter of Chanute, Alfred "Smitty" Huerter of Goff and Daniel Huerter of Bellevue, NE; 23 grandchildren; 37 great-grandchildren; ten great-great grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren on the way.

The Mass of Christian Burial will be on Saturday July 31, 2021 at 10:00 A.M. at Sts. Peter and Paul's Catholic Church in Seneca. A rosary will be prayed at 9:30 A.M., prior to the Mass.

Jim will be laid to rest, next to his wife Jerrie, in the St. Bede's Catholic Cemetery in Kelly, KS.

Memorials may be left in Jim's memory to Seneca Military Museum in Seneca, and may be sent in care of the family.